

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Miss. Baptists respond to national crisis

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptists dispatched six top personnel of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force in the wake of the national tragedies in New York and Washington, D.C., and rushed \$2,500 in disaster relief funds from the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering to the Baptist Convention of New York for their response effort.

Jim Didlake, director of the Men's Ministry Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson, and Jerry Sanford, pastor of First Church, Sardis, have been in Washington, D.C., since September 13 serving as liaison officers between the American Red Cross (ARC) and Baptist disaster relief units at the Pentagon.

The Baptist disaster relief units, activated at the request of Southern Baptist disaster relief officials at the North American Mission Board (NAMB), are providing counseling to Pentagon personnel and preparing 4,000 meals per day, which are delivered through ARC channels.

"We set up on the parking lot of the Pentagon. We've been within 100 yards of the actual crash site. What you see on TV doesn't do justice to the damage," Didlake observed.

Didlake and Sanford connected September 18 with four additional Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force members, and together they conveyed to New York City to help in the relief effort there. The additional task force members are:

- ◆ Kay Cassibry, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union headquartered in the Baptist Building in Jackson.
- ◆ Paul Cassibry, retired military chaplain and member of First Church, Clinton.
- ◆ William Wright, pastor of McDowell Road Church, Jackson.
- ◆ John Vess, a member of Crossgates Church, Brandon.

The six Mississippi task force members will be providing chaplain and counseling services at the Compassion Center in New York City.

Many Mississippi Baptists probably aren't aware the volunteers' expenses, as well as the

\$2,500 gift to the Baptist Convention of New York, are being covered by the disaster relief allotment in the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions.

"Thank God for the foresight and care of Mississippi Baptists that enables us to respond to needs in almost a moment's notice," said Jim Futral, MBCB executive director-treasurer.

"It is a reminder that Margaret Lackey is not just a state missions offering, but a ready response to crisis in Christ's name," Futral said.

Ken Rhodes, director of the MBCB Partnership Missions Department, reported that one Mississippi Baptist partnership missions team returning from Ukraine was stranded for a week in Vienna, Austria, when all U.S. flights were grounded.

The evangelism/church planting team, led by Northwest Association missions director John Perkins, included members of the association's churches and Courtney Selvy, missions director for Panola Association in Batesville. Northwest Association is based in Hernando.

Rhodes reported the team arrived home on September 18.

Rhodes also announced that previously-scheduled partnership mission trips would be rescheduled when transportation problems can be worked out.

For more information on the mission trips, Rhodes can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3239 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 239. E-mail: krhodes@mbcb.org.

Mississippi Baptists can contribute to the relief effort through a special fund set up at MBCB. All donations are tax deductible, and 100% of donations will be used in the New York City/Washington, D.C., relief effort.

Donors should make checks payable to MBCB and include the notation, "New York." Donations should be mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

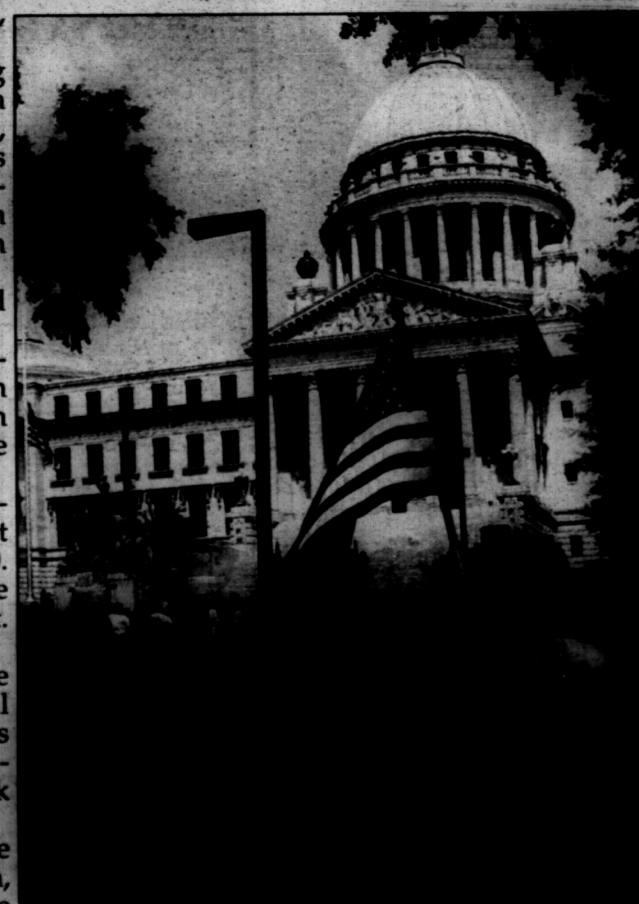
For more information on the fund, contact Paul Pinson, MBCB director of accounting and personnel, at the above address. Telephone: (601) 292-



PRAYER BEFORE DEPARTURE — Jim Futral (back, center) leads in prayer for Mississippi Baptist chaplains/counselors who departed for Washington, D.C., on the morning of September 17. Joining Futral and the four counselors in prayer in the lobby of the Baptist Building in Jackson were staffers of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. The four chaplains/counselors bring to six the total number of top Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force personnel requested by Southern Baptist officials. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

3244 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 244. E-mail: ppinson@mbcb.org.

Tony Martin and Tim Nicholas contributed to this report.



REMEMBERING — Mississippians gathered at noon on September 14 on the south steps of the New Capitol as part of the national day of prayer declared by the U.S. President George W. Bush, in response to the national tragedies in New York City and Washington, D.C. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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SOLIDARITY — Michael Allen (front) of Ridgeland, minister of music and adults at Trace Ridge Church in Ridgeland, and Ryan Luke, music/youth intern at the church, adjust American flags within 100 yards of the actual crash site. What you see on TV doesn't do justice to the damage," Didlake observed. September 13 that were placed outside the church by member Wayne Ng to acknowledge the national tragedies in New York City and Washington, D.C. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

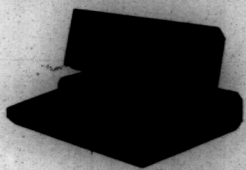
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The hardest prayer

Dear Heavenly Father — I hurt at my innermost. I ache to the depths of my spirit. I am crushed. It is here, in the valley, that I plead with you to gather me in your strong, loving, Daddy arms and hold me until I regain my spiritual strength.

I knew the world was an evil place, but even at 46 years of age I am astonished at the extent of the evil that indeed exists all around us.

The evil that could spend two years plotting to murder thousands of innocent people. The evil that would compel 19 young men to believe that there is a heavenly reward for suicide missions that murder thousands of people.

The evil that rests in leaders who teach young men such malignant theology and then send them to their deaths. The evil that convinces hundreds of other people to provide logistical support and cover to their homicidal/suicidal brothers, and leads thousands of others to cheer when the terrible deed is done.

When words fail me, I turn to you. I know that you have the power to discern my heart's deepest sentiments from nothing more than my ineffectual groanings. I am at that point.

So please hear me, Father, as I pray this hardest prayer.

I pray for the people who, frightened beyond measure, awaited their certain fate in the four doomed aircraft. I can't imagine how they must have felt.

I can only hope that they had the peace that surpasses all understanding, found only in Jesus Christ. I can only hope that if they didn't know Jesus, a Christian near them had time to tell them. I can only hope that this spurs me to be even more dedicated to spreading the Good News.

I pray for the office workers who were instantly vaporized as volatile jet fuel ignited upon impact with the buildings. They didn't have time for a last-minute appeal from the Christian in the next cubicle or down the hall.

I can only hope they were ready to meet their Maker as we each will someday and possibly, like these victims, not at a time not of our choosing.

I pray for the families and friends of the thousands of victims, who in many cases

will never have a body to bury. Many of them will never know for sure how their loved ones died, or to what extent they suffered before they died.

Their parent, brother, sister, husband, wife, son, daughter, true friend — wiped out. All they have, and all they will ever have, are the memories of their loved ones. I offer a special prayer for them.

I pray for the survivors who can't stop seeing the horror even when they close their eyes. I pray for the survivors who will never be whole again in mind or body, and in some cases both.

They will need more encouragement and support than we know. I fear we will lose many more at their own hands, because they can't overcome the haunting images of that day.

I pray for the brave rescue workers who won't step away from ground zero long enough to eat or sleep, so strong is their drive to find even one person alive in that million-ton pile of rubble. Please take care of them, and help them to take care of themselves.

I pray for the ministers and chaplains and counselors who must somehow find the words to comfort those in desperate need of spiritual solace. I pray that these extraordinary people, so willing to take the burdens of the many upon their own shoulders, will turn to you for empowerment.

I pray that this horrible chapter in American history will lead to the greatest revival this nation has ever known, and may it start in us. I pray that we will not seek blind vengeance, but rather that we will seek your face.

All of these pleas are hard enough to pray, Father, given the circumstances, but now comes the hardest part of all.

I pray for the souls of the perpetrators of this terrible act. I pray that the people who planned and carried out this terrible act will someday, somehow, come under conviction, repent of their sins, and worship the true and living Son of God.

That's hard for me to pray, Father, because I want to condemn them to hell. I



TERROR'S AFTERMATH — Rescue workers cut through steel beams lodged in the ruins of the twin 110-story towers of the World Trade Center, which collapsed September 11 when terrorists crashed a pair of jetliners into the buildings. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

want to be bitter like the elder brother of the prodigal son. I want to be judgmental. No, I want to be the judge myself. I want to decide their eternal fate according to my own scorecard. I want revenge.

But I can't be that way, because one day I asked your Son into my heart and he changed my life. I can't act like that even though my human nature wants to, because my nature changed when I was set apart by my Savior for the special work of helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Thank you, Father, for saving a wretch like me. That makes praying this hardest prayer a lot easier.

COMMENTARIES:

Reflections on a national tragedy

A few small-minded and Aungodly people have taken the prejudiced view that all Arabs and all Muslims are to be punished for this atrocity. They do not realize that many Arab-Americans are as deeply wounded by this attack, as any other American would be. In fact, in some cases even more. This is why I felt it necessary to reach across racial and religious lines to share my sentiments with you. I know that, unfortunately, you will be receiving much hate mail; I hope that you receive this letter of support. I pray for your safety and for the safety of Arabs across this nation."

— Clay A. Kahler, pastor of Campo (Calif.) Southern Baptist Church, in an open letter.

• We have a duty to answer these terrorist assaults. There is no question that we must act, and we must act now to at least disrupt the activities of these zealots. If we do not, future generations will curse our lack of discernment, or courage, or both, as they

suffer the barbaric consequences of our failure to respond.

Sadly, the resort to armed conflict is the price human beings must periodically pay for the right to live in a moral universe.

— Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

• Pray for our churches as they minister and witness in the name of Christ. Pray for America that we will be drawn closer to God.

— David Lee, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

• Our response will be to go to God in prayer because we

believe he is sovereign over nations, sovereign over humanity, and sovereign over the events that happen in the world. Ultimately the only thing that will save the world is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and that's our business.

— William O. Crews, president of Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

• I don't mean to sound cynical, but it feels like home.

— Yuval Arad, 25, Louisiana College freshman from Israel.

• Be a caring presence. As Americans seek answers to the unconscionable tragedy, the opportunity is ripe for sowing seeds of the Gospel.

I would tell our ministers to remind our people that God was not caught by surprise. He knew this was going to happen before time ever began. In his mysterious providence he allowed it to happen.

Is it a good thing? No. Did God cause it to happen? No, but God can take this very horrible thing and cause it to work for good. He is that kind of God.

— Daniel Akin, dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

• It is a time... for Christ's followers, even in our confusion, to trust in our faithful God. We need to ask God to grant us hope rather than fear in times like these.

We need to ask God to give us strength so that we can be instruments of grace to and for one another across this campus and also in our communities as well.

— David S. Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Source: Baptist Press

For 'city I know & love,' Baptist worker cries

NEW YORK CITY (BP) — Michael Chance's morning commute into New York City on September 13 was anything but normal. Riding in a transit bus, he looked out over the smoldering ruins of the World Trade Center and began to cry.

"I wept this morning coming into the office," said Chance, director of church development for the Baptist Association of Metropolitan New York.

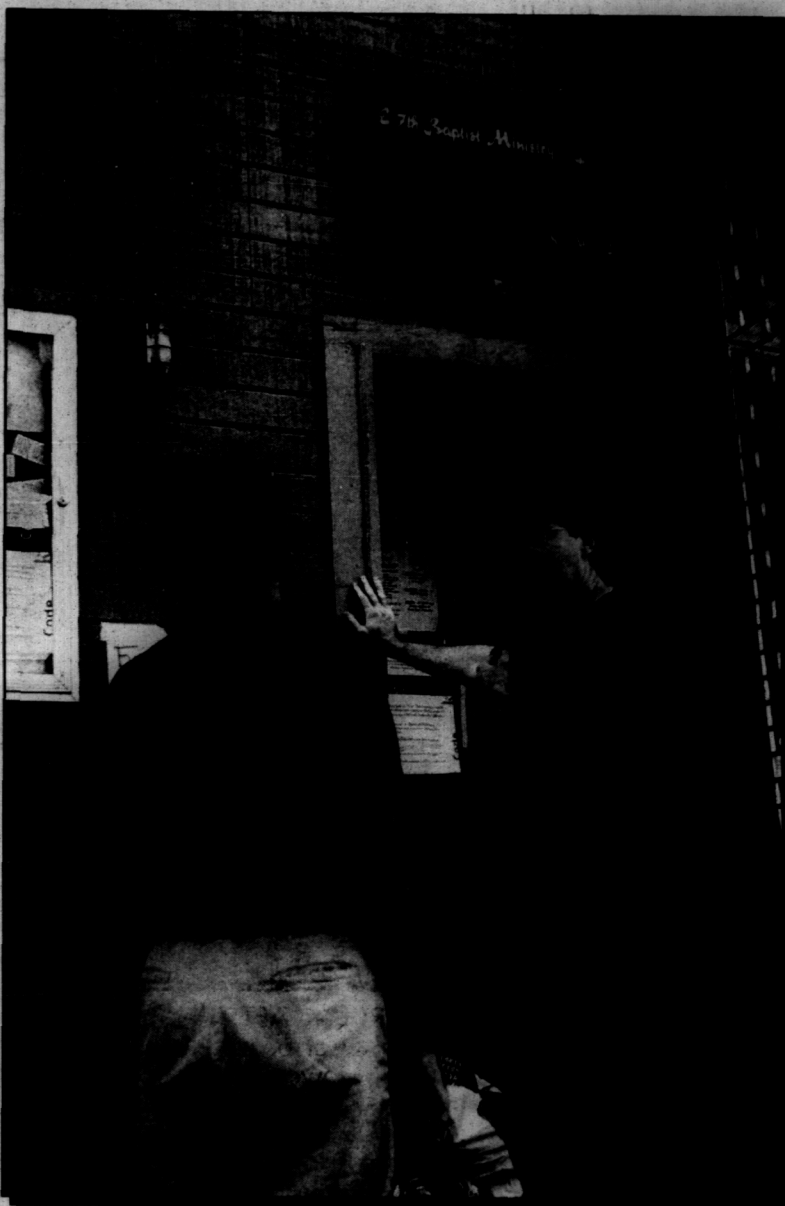
"For 15 years I've been coming into the city on a bus and today, looking at the scarred Manhattan skyline, I felt totally violated," Chance told Baptist Press.

"I feel grief, hurt. This is the city I know and love. This is the city where I work and the people we minister to work," he said.

Chance is a native of Louisiana and a 1976 graduate of New Orleans Seminary. His father, Bob Chance, is a member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Michael Chance joined his fellow Southern Baptists in the hours following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in ministry efforts across Manhattan's financial district.

The ghastly toll of the terrorist



FACING TRAGEDY — Taylor Field (right) pastor of East Seventh Church in the Graffiti neighborhood of Manhattan in New York City, and an unidentified New Yorker discuss the national tragedy in their city and in Washington, D.C. East Seventh Church is the closest Southern Baptist church to the World Trade Towers site. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

attack on the nation's largest city has left more than 5,000 people reported missing in the devastation of the World Trade Center.

Chance and his daughter, Gail, a graduate student at Fordham University, rushed to the scene of the attack where they encountered a group of distraught New York University students.

"One was just in tears," Chance said. "The boys were in their early 20's and many of them couldn't understand why something like this had happened."

Chance also took time to minister to several of the law enforcement officers guarding the crime scene.

"When I told them I was a pastor, they would perk up and we sensed a tremendous sense of gratefulness from them," he said.

Taylor Field, pastor of East Seventh Baptist Church in Graffiti, found himself involved in the early moments of the blast as a parent: His 17-year-old son attends school just a block away from the World Trade Center.

"We got a message that all the students would be moved out of the school and since I didn't have a car, I grabbed my son's bike and took off towards the school," Field told Baptist Press.

"The last 10 blocks of that ride was a hellish quiet," he said. "I kept looking for the towers but they weren't there. People looked like mummies, covered in soot and ash. There was just a huge mountain of debris and smoke," he said.

After two hours of searching, Field located his son, Freeman, along with 14 of his friends, many of whom were stranded in Manhattan.

Field's wife, Susan, who is the Baptist chaplain at Columbia University in New York City, located their other son. Soon

their small apartment became a safe place for the family and Freeman's high school buddies.

After caring for his family's immediate needs, Field set about caring for the needs of the community. East Seventh is the closest Southern Baptist church to the blast zone.

"The place was in a crisis," Field said. "We set up a prayer room and pulled a television outside so people could get some information. We heard some incredible stories of how God worked."

Jack Lok owns a travel agency in New York's Chinatown. His building provided a spectacular view of the World Trade Center — and its devastating end.

"We had a group of tourists who were up in the tower and we haven't been able to locate

them. We feel terrible," Lok said as he placed a banner declaring, "God bless the victims and God bless America."

Lok said it is up to the community to pray for the victims of the tragedy. "We've all been deeply touched by this," he said.

While not New Yorkers, Carl and Janyce Schmidt felt the Lord calling them to the nation's largest city moments after the attack.

The Schmidts, members of the First Church in Vermillion, Ohio, are volunteers with the American Red Cross who are operating a relief booth inside the blast zone.

"I just want to break down and cry for these people," Carl said. "Many of them have no homes, no clothes. It is so sad, so sad."

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
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FRONT PAGE

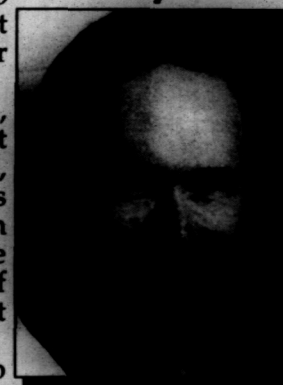
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Michael Chance

Family comforted

BILLERICA, Mass. (BP) — The parents of Jessica Sachs, who died Sept. 11 on the first jetliner to crash into the World Trade Center, are comforted by the possibility that in her final moments she told other passengers about Jesus. A member of New Colony Church in Billerica, Mass., the 23-year-old Sachs was aboard American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston when it was commandeered by terrorists. "This is one of the comforts the family has taken hold of," said pastor Jack Parrott. "The thing that offers some degree of peace is their belief in the last minutes Jessica was sharing her faith and telling others God was in control of this uncontrollable situation." In an e-mail circulated to dozens of persons expressing condolences since the tragedy, Jessica's father, Steve Sachs, commented, "The only thing holding the family together is that we know Jessica is being held in the arms of Christ." Jessica was the youngest of three children, after her brother, Eric, and sister, Kathy. Parrott said it is likely the victim shared her faith after it became apparent the plane had been hijacked and was en route to another destination. Active in New Colony's youth Bible study program while in high school, one of her favorite Scripture verses was 1 Cor. 1:18: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (NIV). In addition to being active at New Colony, in college she was involved with Mercy House, a Southern Baptist church being started in Amherst.

Looking back

10 years ago

The newly-created Horizon Community Church meets for the first time in the Northpark Cinema in Ridgeland. The contemporary church is perhaps the first of its kind in the state. Later in the day people paid to see Terminator 2, but for the moment the focus was on Christian worship.

20 years ago

Paul Pressler of Texas, Southern Baptist inerrancy advocate, meets privately with Harold Bennett, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville. Pressler states that he believes a genuine "turnaround" has begun in Southern Baptist Convention.

50 years ago

Baker James Cauthen, secretary for the Orient for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, departs the board's Richmond offices for Tokyo, Japan, where he will maintain Orient headquarters for the work of the board in that area of the world.

Chaplains facing 'difficult ministry' in crisis

Afghanistan holding two Baylor grads

WACO, Texas (BP) — The two American women on trial before Afghanistan's Supreme Court for sharing their Christian faith are graduates of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and members of a non-denominational church in Waco, Texas.

The women, Dayna Curry, 29, and Heather Mercer, 24, were arrested Aug. 3 along with four Germans, two Australians, and 16 Afghans for their work with Shelter Now, a Christian aid organization based in Germany.

The 24 workers were arrested, and Bibles, videos and audio tapes were seized, by the ruling Islamic authority in Afghanistan, the Taliban, regarded by U.S. and U.N. officials as one of the world's chief antagonists to religious freedom. The workers' trial began Sept. 4 in Kabul, the nation's capitol.

Hanging or imprisonment could face Curry, Mercer, and the six other foreign workers with Shelter Now if they are convicted for proselytizing Christianity, according to a Sept. 5 Reuters report quoting comments by Chief Justice Noor Mohammad Sarabi in the Afghan Islam Press.

According to a report in the Waco Tribune-Herald, Curry hails from Tennessee and is a 1993 social work graduate of Baylor University, which is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Mercer, from Virginia, is a 1999 Baylor graduate who earned a degree in German.

It is not known how the current tensions between Afghanistan and the U.S. will affect the status of the Christians being held there.

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries and chaplains are sharing the light of the Gospel during some of America's darkest days.

U.S. Navy Chaplain Steve Epperson is among those notifying relatives of those killed Sept. 11 when a hijacked commercial jet slammed into the western wall of the Pentagon in Washington.

"Probably, the most difficult ministry has been for chaplains to accompany Casualty Notification Officers to the homes of those personnel unaccounted for or missing to officially notify the next of kin," Epperson said.

Epperson said he and other Southern Baptist-endorsed chaplains are not mere messengers of doom and gloom.

"Your chaplains are sharing the promise of God's Word to those people overcome with shock and disbelief," he said.

Six specially-trained members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force are in New York City to serve as chaplains and counselors.

Their specialized training and expenses while in New York City are funded by the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

While some may ask, "Where is God in all this?" Epperson said he has seen God everywhere.

"I have seen him in the spirit of the American people," he said. "I have seen him as thousands gather to pray, to join together in faith, to give blood, to provide food, to serve, and to listen."

Captain Timothy Mallard works in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains located less than a mile from the Pentagon.

"Chaplains have been at the Pentagon attack site since minutes after the plane hit the building," Mallard said.

"We are manning a spiritual triage site, where both walking wounded and rescue personnel may come for pastoral care," he said.

Steve McQuitty, a student evangelism missionary on the campus of Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y., said most students have relatives or friends who have been personally impacted by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Please pray for us," McQuitty said. "Although we are physically and emotion-

ally drained, we believe that God has provided an opportunity for us to boldly share about the good news of our Lord Jesus.

"We want to walk through this chaos with the confidence that comes from knowing God. Pray that we would take advantage of every chance to share about his grace, and ask God to stir the hearts of the lost students, so that they would be seeking truth."

Heather Ruiz, ministry evangelism director with the Baptist Convention of New York, said New Yorkers are being drawn to Christ through this tragedy.

She said television and radio stations are announcing regularly that churches are holding prayer vigils across the state. Secular radio stations are voicing prayers on the air.

Ruiz said the mood has changed dramatically across New York, where a few weeks ago people seemed uninterested in being prayed for during a statewide prayerwalk.

"I count these as victories in the middle of such devastation," she said.

Norman Solis, a church planter in New York, said he shared the promises of Psalm 23 with fearful customers at a McDonalds on the morning of the terrorist attack.

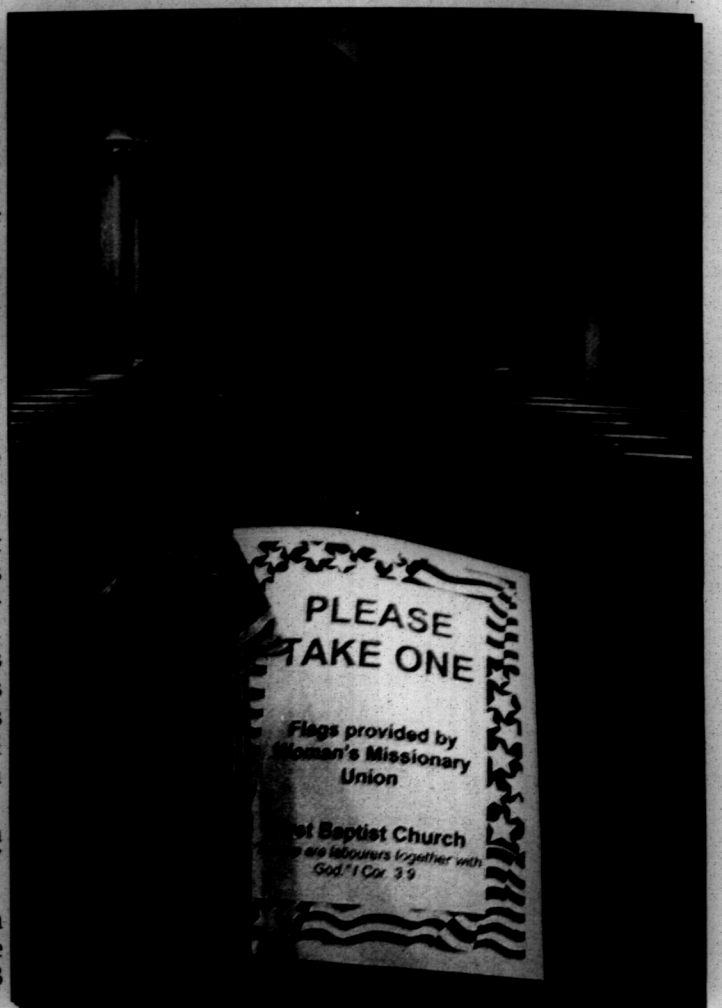
"My heart really broke when I saw the towers collapsing," Solis said. "I love New York and its people."

"Please pray, that I will be more sensitive to the needs of the people around me these days, so that I can minister to them."

Lisa Chilson, volunteer coordinator for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, watched the events unfold on television from the association offices about four miles from the World Trade Center.

"It was just a shock," she said. "We spent the morning praying."

"This is the perfect opportunity to put into practice what we've been praying



QUIET TIME — A pair of worshipers take a break from their work schedules September 14 to pray in the chapel of First Church, Jackson, which was opened to the public as part of the national day of prayer declared by U.S. President George W. Bush in response to the national tragedies in New York City and Washington, D.C. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

about and planning for the last few months," she said.

David R. Dean, the associational missionary for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, asked that people pray as the number of victims mounts.

"We have no verified persons from our churches who lost their lives at this point," he said in an e-mail the day after the attacks. "I fear that it is just a matter of time."

Miller to headline Church Media Library Conf.

Calvin Miller, popular lecturer, writer, preacher, and professor of preaching and pastoral studies at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, will be the featured speaker at the 30th annual Church Media Library (CML) Conference October 5-6 at First Church, Columbus.

The conference begins with registration October 5 at 9 a.m., and concludes at 8 p.m. The conference will resume October 6 at 8 a.m. and conclude at noon.

Miller will speak at the October 5 evening dinner and have a book signing afterward. Other conference leaders include:

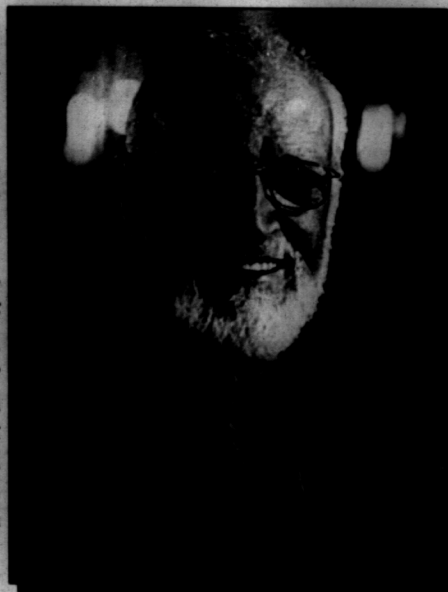
- Beth Andrews of Dallas, CML national specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.
- Eva Nell Hunter of Decatur, Ala., also a CML national specialist for LifeWay.
- Sandra Fitts, media library director at First Church,

Corinth, and media ministry director for Alcorn Association in Corinth.

- Hope Winter Ferguson of Nashville, approved worker in the LifeWay Church Media Program.
- Kathy Sylvest of Nashville, librarian for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville.

Courses to be offered at the conference include:

- CML Ministry.
- CML Administration.
- Selection of Media.
- Advanced Concourse.



Miller

- Intermediate Concourse.
- Ministry to Caregivers.
- Using Dewey.
- Using Sears Subject Headers.
- Collecting and Writing Church History.
- Oral History and Scrapbook.
- Promoting Church History.
- Care and Repair of Books.
- LifeWay Christian Resources bookstore will feature a large exhibit of books and other items at the host church. The conference texts can also be purchased at the LifeWay exhibit.

On October 5 at 7 p.m., a sampler entitled, Mississippi Tiptop Time, will feature a hands-on look and ideas to help church media libraries. Miller will also be available during the time for his book signing.

The registration fee is \$15 per person, which includes lunch and dinner at the church on October 5 and all conference materials. Reservations are required.

Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to Communication Services/CML, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

For suggested motels in the area or for more information, contact Judy Chen in the Communication Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at the above address. Telephone: (601) 292-3378 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 378. E-mail: jchen@mbcb.org.

WMU's Smith offers crisis advice to parents

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the possibility of a military response by the nation have underscored anew the need for parents and other adults to answer questions from children about war and violence, said Joye Smith, consultant for preschool and children's audiences at the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham.

Adults need to listen to children's fears, Smith said, and offer reassurance as children sort through their feelings amid the crisis.

Parents and leaders of church organizations indeed can offer children spiritual help, Smith said.

"One of the tremendous feelings expressed by children in times of crisis is the feeling of helplessness," Smith said.

"Children feel that there is nothing they can do. Graphic pictures on television often make children feel powerless to help.

"The greatest reassurance you can give a child is a sense of hopefulness. Because of our relationship with Christ, we have a hope beyond what the world can give," she pointed out.

Reminding children about the promises in Scripture is an appropriate first step, she said,

referencing such passages as Psalms 62:5 and 56:3; Deut. 31:6; Matt. 28:20; and John 14:27.

Identifying a ministry project to aid victims of the crisis also would alleviate children's helplessness, Smith said.

Among other tips for helping children through a crisis:

- ◆ Listen to preschoolers and children as they talk about the incident, Smith said. Explain the crisis to them. News reports and conversations with other children at school and at play could give them a distorted view of the crisis and create more questions about the situation.

- ◆ Give simple, direct answers to questions directed to the child's concerns, Smith said. Do not over-explain the situation, but give answers at their level of understanding. Too many details could confuse the child and create even more fears.

A 5-year-old might ask, "What is war?" A good answer is, "It is a fight between people." With older children, asking how they feel about what they have heard is helpful, Smith said.

Open-ended questions will help the child express his or her fear and concerns, she said, noting that adults should be carefully listening.

- ◆ Show respect for the concerns and fears of the child. The fears may be unfounded to the adult, but they are real to the child.

Reassure the child of his/her safety and that parents and other adults will do everything possible to assure safety.

- ◆ Watch for signs of stress in children, Smith said. Children react to stress through their actions.

A child may not tell you how he or she is feeling, but will show it behaviorally. Look for such changes as becoming overly aggressive or passive, sleeping problems or loss of appetite, Smith said, advising that if the behavior persists, a parent should talk with a minister or professional counselor.



SHATTERED SILENCE — Having just moved one month ago from Atlanta to New York City, Tamrah Edwards joins hundreds of other New Yorkers in a moment of silence at Union Square as a memorial to the victims of the national tragedies in New York City and Washington, D.C. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

WHERE I WAS WHEN...

September 11, 2001, will forever be one of those days that is marked by *where I was when the planes hit the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon, and the woods of Pennsylvania.*

Through the years, from family members and friends, I have heard Pearl Harbor recounted in terms of "where I was," and today, up till now, the most dominant date marked that way was a gray day in November when President Kennedy was killed. Now, our world has become a kaleidoscope of pain, indescribable destruction, heroic rescues, and times of prayer and reflection.

I was about to leave my house to drive to Atlanta for a meeting with the North American Mission Board. I had already seen the top news stories of the day, and while the television was on, it was just background noise.

That was until a live picture flashed up on the screen from New York City and the reporter said, "It appears as though a plane has crashed into the World Trade Center!"

I watched and called for my wife, Shirley, to come and see. Sure enough, one tower of the World Trade Center looked like a huge chimney with smoke billowing out.

Shirley looked and said something about how sad that was, and then went on to take care of the grandchild that was at our house. I kept watching and then, out of nowhere, I saw a second plane crash into the other tower. I couldn't believe what my eyes were seeing. I called out to Shirley, "Come see! Look — another plane just crashed into the other tower!"

As you well know, it was not long until we would hear that either a bomb had gone off or another plane had flown into the Pentagon.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Then we began to realize that these were not just accidents, but clearly acts of terrorism and destruction against America. What was next we did not know! It did not take long for me to realize that I would not be going anywhere, for any meeting, except to get on to work at the Baptist Building and make sure the people with whom I work were being cared for through what was the unfolding national tragedy.

In the next 24 hours I was a participant in five different prayer meetings. I was amazed at the crowds: the diversity of people, the deep and total focus on the Lord, and the moving times of prayer that we had together.

In the midst of the tragedy, amusement parks were closed, sporting events were cancelled, and entertainment centers locked their doors. Malls across America turned out their lights and went home.

While everything else closed, churches opened. All around the capital city of Mississippi, churches were open. All across the state it was the same thing. All across America, people flocked to places of prayer. It was the right place to be.

At one of the prayer meetings, a man pointed out that as the giant twin towers collapsed, no one was heard to cry out, "Oh, my stocks and bonds!" or "Oh, my savings!"

No, but the cry that came from many was, "Oh, my God!"

Then later as the ruin and rubble was seen at the Pentagon — the very symbol of military might in America — no one cried out, "Oh, my planes, tanks, missiles, and strategic weapons systems!"

Again people were crying out, "Oh, my God!"

No doubt, like many of you, I often thought of the words from the Lord, "If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, then will I hear..."

Clearly, all across the land, cries went up to God. It was the right thing to do, but I also thought that with all these prayers being directed towards Heaven, that it was not nearly as important for us to get hold of God, than it was for God to get hold of us!

In the countless hours that have followed the initial tragedy, questions have been raised about our intelligence-gathering agencies — what happened to them? And, our national security systems — where were they? Couldn't they have stopped this?

One man raised the question of why would God not protect our Christian nation? Maybe we ought to take time during this national crisis to be brutally honest with ourselves.

There is no doubt that our beginnings as a nation were God-guided. Why, we even peppered our Declaration of Independence with references to him and then closed our

Constitution with godly expressions. As a nation, we have gotten far, far away from him and his Word!

Before we get too indignant about what some evil nation did to us, we ought to keep in focus the kind of nation we are:

- A nation where, on public radio and television, the vilest of words and the most demeaning references to God can be used and nobody thinks anything about it.

- A nation that allows pornography and online gambling to literally saturate an internet we do not know how to manage because, of course, we must protect freedom of expression.

- A nation in which more babies are destroyed through abortion each week than people were killed in the terrorist attack.

- A nation in which drugs of every illegal description are used to make people rich overnight, and by which hundreds of thousands of lives are either derailed or destroyed.

- A nation in which godless lifestyles are elevated and godly principles are attacked.

In the midst of all of the incredible events and circumstances, what can one person do?

1. **Do right.** As the Lord says, "Turn from your wicked ways..."

2. **Pray that revival** — genuine, heaven-sent, soul-stirring, life-changing, God-honoring revival — will sweep our land.

3. **Help, in the midst of hurt.** As God would guide you, you can help with those whose lives have been so directly and permanently affected by this tragedy. Any funds sent for this effort will be directly passed on to the efforts coordinated by New York and Washington, D.C. Baptists. As you can imagine, help is needed.

May God give us strength and wisdom as we help one another through this long, national, dark valley.

Disaster relief fund set up at MBCB

Mississippi Baptists can contribute to the New York City/Washington, D.C. relief effort through a special fund set up at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). All donations are tax deductible, and 100% of donations will be used in the New York City/Washington, D.C. disaster relief effort. Donations should be made payable to "New York City/Washington, D.C. disaster relief effort." Donations should be mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. For more information on the fund, contact Paul Pison, MBCB director of accounting and personnel, at the above address. Telephone: (601) 292-3244 or toll-free outside Jackson: (800) 748-1651, ext. 244. E-mail: ppison@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Children of Midway Church, Meridian

Mission Friends, RAs, GAs, as well as the children from Bible School of Midway Church, Meridian, purchased puppets and Bibles for Debbie McWhorter (seated with the children) to take to Tanzania, Africa, on July 11.



Children of Midway Church, Meridian

Judgement House will be presented at Star Church, Star, Oct. 27, 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Oct. 28 and 31, 6-9:30 p.m. For additional information and reservations for 10 or more, call (601) 845-2736. Joey Beeson is minister of students and activities.

Park Haven Church, Laurel, will feature Tim Frith and Gospel Echoes in concert, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. Jim Balliet is pastor.

Bethany Church, Bay Springs, will host New Wine, gospel singers, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.



Mission team of Central Church, Meridian

A mission team from Central Church, Meridian, went to Clarksdale, July 28-Aug. 4, to conduct a day camp. Pictured (from left, back row) are Tyler Pope, Danny Chisholm, Bruce Gibson, Jerry Pope, Toby Barker, Charlotte Eagle, George Eagle, Michael Turner, and Penny McLemore; (front row) Amy Pope, Leon Ashmore, Cathy Ashmore, Teresa Page, and Brent Little. Danny Chisholm is pastor.

First Church, Taylorsville, will celebrate 100 years of service on Oct. 14. The celebration will begin at 9 a.m. with a time for fellowship in the Family Life Center. Services will conclude at noon with a luncheon following. Tickets must be purchased for the meal. For more information, call (601) 785-4747.

A retirement reception will be held at Galilee First Church, Gloster, for Sammy and Lena Smith on Sept. 30 from 2-4 p.m.



Mission team of Winston Association

Kokomo Church, Marion County, will hold dedication services for its new building on Sept. 23. Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m. with worship service at 11 a.m., followed with lunch and fellowship. A dedication service will be at 2 p.m., followed by open house from 2:45-4:30 p.m. Glenn Nace is pastor.

The Single Adult Ministry of Broadmoor Church, Madison, invites any interested single adult to attend "A Weekend of Spiritual Re-formation" Fall Retreat, Sept. 28-30 at Central Hills Retreat, Kosciusko. Registration deadline is Sept. 23. For additional information, call Corine Frizzell at (601) 898-4947 or e-mail at cfrizzell@broadmoor.org.

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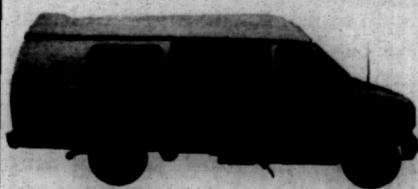
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2001 Model: \$36,900

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January Bible Study Preview Clinic

First Baptist Church ♦ Jackson
September 25, 2001 ♦ 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Refreshments will be served in the morning.
A complimentary lunch will be served at noon.
No registration is necessary.

WAYNE VANHORN –

pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbia, will lead the adult study. The adult January Bible Study book is entitled *What's Life All About? – Foundations for the Biblical Worldview Genesis 1-12*, written by Allan Moseley.

DANIEL CALDWELL –

dean of the Cooper School of Biblical Studies, William Carey College, will lead the youth leaders. The youth January Bible Study book is entitled *Blueprints: Studies from Genesis*, written by Kim Henderson.

For more information contact the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board by writing P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, calling (800) 748-1651 ext. 295 or (601) 292-3295 or e-mailing mlott@mbcb.org.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 20, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

SENIORS

State Senior Adult Leadership Lab (open to ministers, officers, Sunday School teachers)

November 1-2, 2001

(registration 1:30 p.m., 11/1, adjourn 1:00 p.m., 11/2)

Camp Garaywa, Clinton (601-924-5062)

Cost: \$65 (meals and lodging) OR \$10 for Friday events with lunch only OR \$5 for workshops only (no meals or lodging)

Registration Deadline: October 29, 2001

Speakers: Bobby Shows, Dennis Daniels, Janie Walters and Horace Kerr. Music by R.L. and Beth Sigrest

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. For more info, contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

Bobby Shows



Mississippi Literacy Missions Celebration "For Such a Time as This"

**October 18-20
Camp Garaywa**

(Registration Thursday, 4 p.m. — Adjourn Saturday, 3 p.m.)

Workshops will be led by the Mississippi Baptist Literacy Task Force Team plus one guest workshop leader.

GUEST SPEAKER

Gayle Leninger

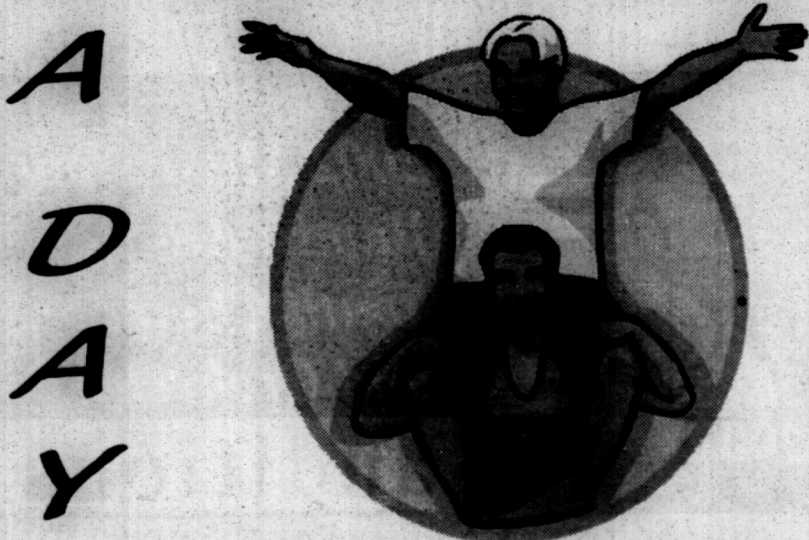
*National Literacy Missionary (retired)
NAMB*



For more information, contact the WMU at 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-968-3800 (Jackson).

Attention: All Lads, Crusaders
& Challengers

R SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6



Mississippi College

- Grades 1-12 • 10 a.m.-5 p.m. • \$4 per person
- Bring your own sack lunch and drink

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 28**

For more information, contact the Men's Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-968-3800 (Jackson).

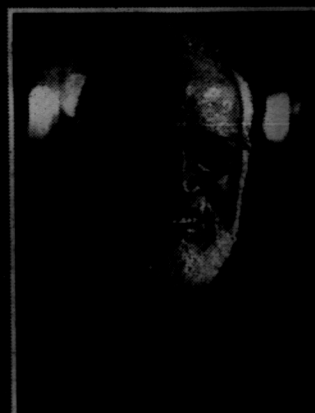
2002 Baptist Doctrine Study Preview

- **Main Street Baptist Church**
Hattiesburg
January 28, 2002
- **McLaurin Heights Baptist Church**
Pearl
January 29, 2002
- **First Baptist Church**
Grenada
January 31, 2002



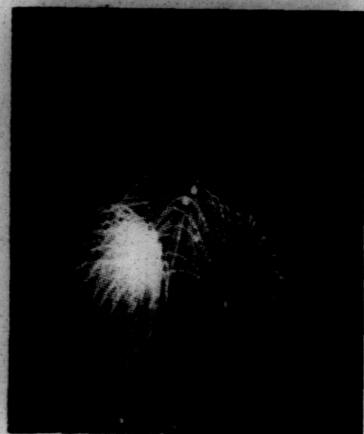
**All
previews
are from
9 a.m.-noon**

For more information, contact the Discipleship Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-968-3800 (Jackson).



Preregistration is requested.
The cost is \$10, which includes brunch and a copy of this year's doctrinal study book *Called to be Holy*, by Rick Melick.

Who Says a Small Package Doesn't Pack a Lot of Power?



There is a lot of power in
the smaller church
Sunday School.

Come find out how to unleash
that power to reach and minister to
more people in your community.

Smaller Church Sunday School Workshops

October 9 & 16

October 9, 2001 • 7-9 p.m.
Tuscumbia Baptist Church
Booneville

October 16, 2001 • 7-9 p.m.
New Prospect Baptist Church
Brookhaven

*Conferences will be offered for all Sunday School
leaders who work with preschool, children, youth and
adult classes. Special conferences will be offered for
general officers and for pastors.*

• No registration required • No childcare provided • No cost

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board. For more information, contact us at 1-800-748-1651 or
(601) 968-3800 in Jackson, or by fax at (601) 714-7438, or on the internet at
www.mbcch.org.

CML

2001-2002 Media Libraries...
Focus on Leadership

MISSISSIPPI



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CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY

30th Annual

CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

October 5-6, 2001

First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss.



Calvin Miller

Seminar Selections

• *Leadership in the 21st Century*
• *Effective Communication*
• *Building a Vision*
• *Strategic Planning*
• *Financial Stewardship*
• *Human Resources*
• *Marketing*
• *Technology*
• *Facilities Management*
• *Legal Issues*
• *Insurance*
• *Real Estate*
• *Public Relations*
• *Community Development*
• *Environmental Stewardship*
• *Disaster Preparedness*
• *Emergency Response*
• *First Aid*
• *Fire Safety*
• *Security*
• *Crime Prevention*
• *Public Safety*
• *Emergency Evacuation*
• *First Aid for Children*
• *Fire Safety for Children*
• *Security for Children*
• *Crime Prevention for Children*
• *Public Safety for Children*
• *Emergency Evacuation for Children*
• *First Aid for the Elderly*
• *Fire Safety for the Elderly*
• *Security for the Elderly*
• *Crime Prevention for the Elderly*
• *Public Safety for the Elderly*
• *Emergency Evacuation for the Elderly*
• *First Aid for the Disabled*
• *Fire Safety for the Disabled*
• *Security for the Disabled*
• *Crime Prevention for the Disabled*
• *Public Safety for the Disabled*
• *Emergency Evacuation for the Disabled*

For more information, contact MCB Communication Services:
Call 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3378, or E-mail jchen@mbcb.org.

GA MISSIONS MADNESS

The Mississippi River Ministry Adventure

Saturday, November 3 • 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Natchez • \$5 per person

On Saturday, Nov. 3, all GAs (1st - 6th grade girls) and leaders in our state are invited to join the GA planning team for an imaginary journey on the Mississippi River. On each stop of our journey we will learn about a missionary and one type of missions work in each of the seven states involved in the Mississippi River Ministry. Some of the ministries include face painting, building a cardboard house, painting a mural, making craft dolls, assembling dental hygiene kits and meeting a missionary.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. The steamboat leaves the dock at 9:30 and returns at 3:45. Early registration deadline is October 19. If space is still available, groups may register after October 19, but the cost is \$7.50.

Each GA needs to bring the following:

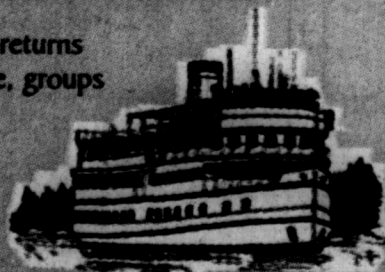
1. A sack lunch (drinks and dessert are provided)
2. Money for our mission offering
3. Dental hygiene items (small sizes of toothpaste, toothbrush, mouthwash and dental floss)

Each GA leader needs to bring the following:

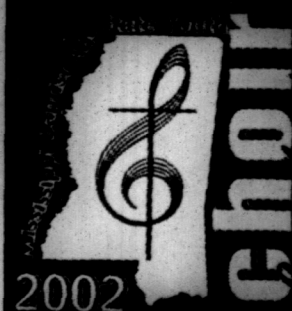
1. A camera
2. A blanket for the picnic lunch

Accommodation suggestions:

- Ramada Inn 601-446-6311
- Days Inn 601-445-8291
- Comfort Inn 601-446-5500
- Raddison 601-445-6000



For more info contact Debbie Sills in the VHSB: Call 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3378 (Jackson); or E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org



2002 Mississippi
Baptist All-State
Youth Choir
and Orchestra

auditions

October 2001 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Saturday, 20th	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	FBC, Brookhaven
Thursday, 25th	4-8 p.m.	Fairview BC, Columbus
Saturday, 27th	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	North Oxford BC, Oxford

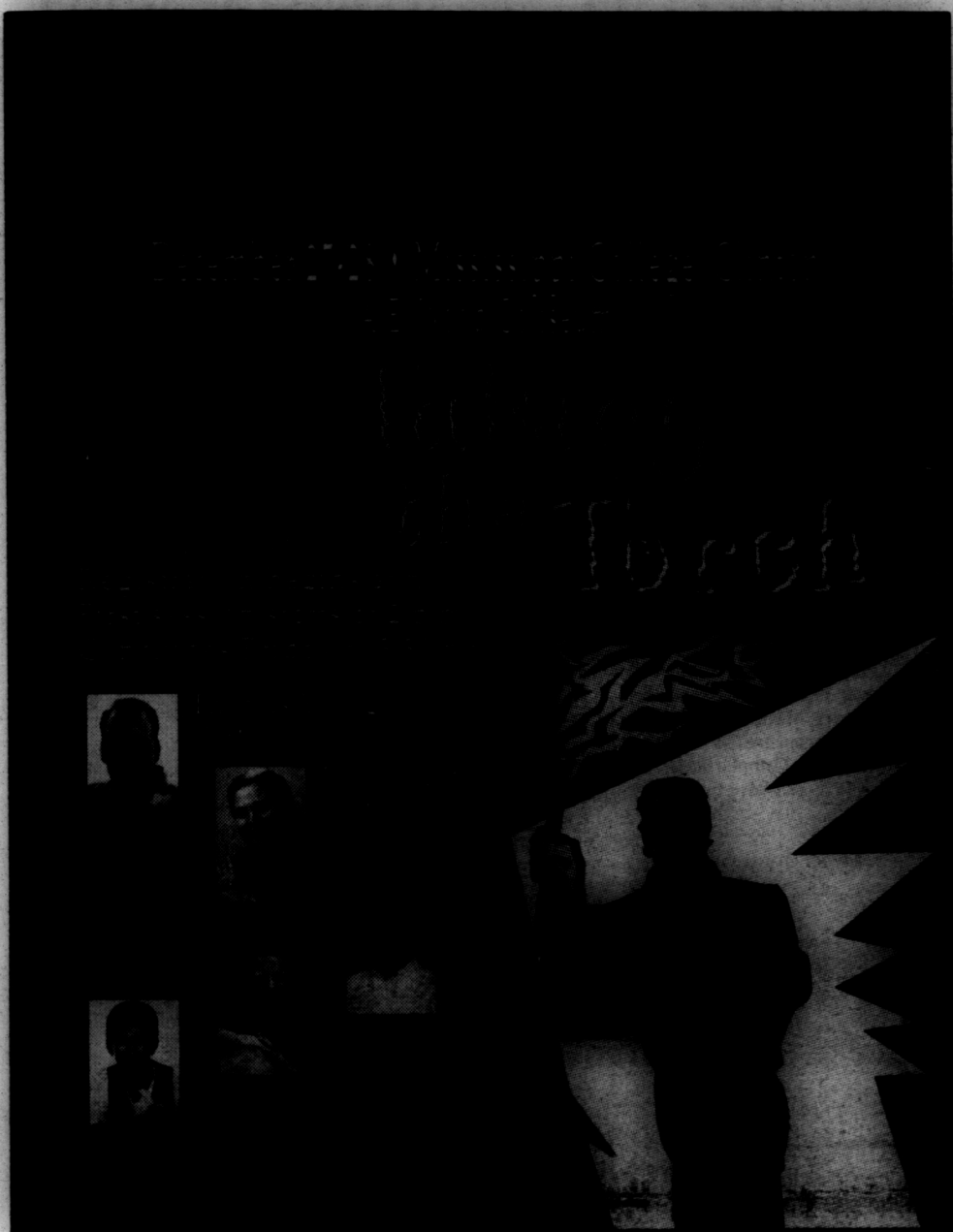
November 2001 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Saturday, 3rd	12-2 p.m.	North Greenwood BC, Greenwood
Saturday, 10th	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	William Carey College, Hattiesburg
Thursday, 15th	4-8 p.m.	FBC, Meridian
Saturday, 17th	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Aven Hall, Mississippi College, Clinton

(NOTE: ALL instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.)

Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece
 - Scales
 - Sight reading
 - Technique and tone
- For more info contact the Church Music Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 (Jackson)



CSC 2001

State College Student Conference

September 28-29
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison
Cost \$6 (see web page for motel info)

Challenged by His Name



Ryan Whitley
First Baptist Church
of Center Point
Birmingham

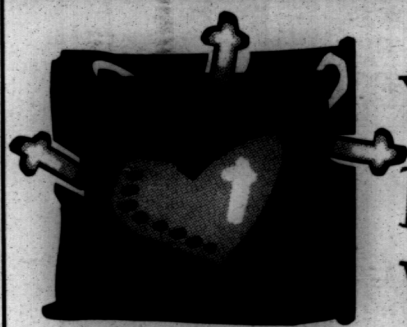


Emmett Dunn
Baptist World Alliance
Washington, D.C.



Dave Hunt
Minister
Nashville

For more info: www.mbc.org
or contact your BSU director, or the MBCB
Collegiate Ministry Department at
601-968-3800 (Jackson) or 1-800-748-1651



Youth Ministers Workshop

"Keeping Your Heart for God"

November 12-14, 2001
Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville



Rob Turner
Student Evangelist/Conference
Kettering, Ohio
Keynote Speaker



Dave Hunt
Associate Student Minister
First Baptist Church
Nashville



Chuck Gartman
Youth Ministry Services
Sunday School Dept., LifeWay
Nashville

For more info, contact the Church Administration-Pastoral
Ministries Dept. at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305 (Jackson).



MBRA Recreation
and Youth Ministers

GOLF Tournament

Tuesday, October 9
Mallard Pointe Golf Club
Sardis

Thursday, October 18
Shadow Ridge Golf Club
Hattiesburg

Tournament Fee \$35
includes
• green fee • cart • lunch
• prizes • one mulligan

If you have any questions, please call
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651
or E-mail Harvey Ellis at
hgeillis@mbcb.org.

It is very
important
that you get
your registration
form in to us by
Friday, September 28
so we can make
all of the necessary
arrangements.

Thanks for your help
with this!

Visit our convention website: mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

September 21 - October 4, 2001

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

Prayer - The earliest form of wireless communication

On Oct. 15 Colombian prayer watchmen will join a volunteer team from the USA in a city-wide prayerwalk. Pray that this will begin a period of prayer until God transforms this city, and that God will be glorified and many in the city will respond to His call.

Shanxi province in China has over 9,750,000 children under age 15, and it is illegal for them to be evangelized. Pray for God's unselfish love to reach these little ones. (2) Pray for Prime Minister Saddam Hussein of Iraq (southwestern Asia).

For: (1) Discipleship Rally (D&FM); (2) Church Related Vocations Banquet, Hattiesburg (CAPM); (3) Missions Development in Mississippi, Meridian, (SM); (4) Youth Ministers' Workshop, Louisville (CAPM).

For: (1) Cooperative Program Month (Stewardship Emphasis); (2) Charles, director, alcohol and drug abuse program, Clovis Brantley Center, Greater New Orleans Baptist Assoc., requests prayer that those in the program can overcome the dependency of alcohol and drugs.

For: (1) January Bible Study; FBC, Jackson (SS); (2) University students represent the best educated of Tanzanian society. Pray that as they search for knowledge and truth, they will discover the truth of Christ.

Can Mardi Gras just NOT be held one year? Can the sun stand still in the sky? Both of these things actually happened by the prayers of the righteous! Can the Harry Potter movie just NOT be shown since they have a bad effect on children? How many prayers of the righteous would this take?

A young Jula man living in Abidjan has become a believer. His non-Christian family is allowing him this 'freedom,' but is not happy about it. Pray for him as he grows in his faith and determines how best to share his faith with his family and friends.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS (2) A worldwide cult group has sent many personnel to Cambodia. People are confused by the similarities, including the believers. Pray that this cult will not be able to capture the hearts of the Cambodian people.

Lee and Ellen Martin are police chaplains with the Topeka Police Dept. and the Kansas Highway Patrol. Pray that they will continue to meet the spiritual needs of the officers and staff and that their hearts will always be compassionate to help people in need.

Pray for the evangelization of over 30,000 college students in Oaxaca, Mexico. Less than two percent are Christians. Most have Catholic backgrounds, but few practice that religion. They are the Mexico of tomorrow—intelligent, young, ready for change, and "online."

For: (1) Volunteer Chaplains' Training, Baptist Building (SM); (2) Missionary Parents' Fellowship/Retired Missionaries, Camp Garaywa, 3 pm, 21st - 2:30 pm, 22nd (WMU); (3) Baptist Nursing Fellowship Weekend, Camp Garaywa, 5 pm, 21st - 3 pm, 22 (WMU).

For: (1) Mississippi Missionaries' semi-annual meeting, Camp Garaywa, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (WMU); (2) Please pray today for Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano of Holy See (Vatican City) within the commune of Rome, Italy.

For: (1) State College Student Conference, Madison, (CLGM); (2) Elections in Cambodia are upcoming in February 2002 and many people are fearful. Pray for peace in these next six months. This is a crucial time for the stability of the nation and for future growth.

Missionaries Chris Austin and Richard Kelly prayerwalked the length of The Gambia earlier this year. Word is spreading about the two "toubabs" (white men) who came with nothing and wanted nothing but to pray for the villages. Pray for open doors to witness.



Partnership Missions CELEBRATION November 9-10, 2001

Friday, November 9

FBC, Jackson, 425 North State Street
Featuring:

- Celebration Banquet - 6:30 p.m.
- Partnership Displays by Participants
- Music/Testimonies
- Mission Impact - Mississippi - David Michel
- Partnership Updates - Fieldside Coordinators
- Church Planting Movement - David Jackson



David Michel

Saturday, November 10

Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street
Featuring:

- Continental Breakfast - 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.
- Devotional
- New Mission Opportunities - Panel
- Celebration Conferences by Partnership Groups



David Jackson

The Partnership Missions Celebration is open to anyone interested in missions.

Banquet Cost: \$10 Reservations required by November 6
Call: 601-292-3398 by November 6

RESERVATION FORM

Partnership Missions Celebration, November 9-10, 2001

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ No. of Reservations _____

Please fill out form and mail to: Partnership Missions Department, MBCB
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

NOVEMBER



1-93

MISS CAITLYN A. BRASWELL
Rua Regina Mundi, 391/Bairro Cristo Rei
93.020-280 Sao Leopoldo Rd., BRAZIL
Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism
SERVE IN Eastern South America

4-94

MISS ALICIA MARTIN
Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: William & Cynthia, Strategy
SERVE IN Western South America

4-81

MISS LUCY M. GRAVES
SU Box 292563, Birmingham, AL 35229-2563
Parents: Edgar & Marilyn, General Evangelism
SERVE IN Western South America

5-85

MISS BETHANY G. FORTENBERRY
P O Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA
Parents: Robert & Margaret, General Evangelism
SERVE IN Southern Africa

8-91

MR. JACOB S. LIGHTSEY
2030 Hyman Place, New Orleans LA 70131
Parents: Timothy & Rebecca, Literature Distrib.
SERVE IN Middle America

9-78

MISS JENNIFER L. GLAZE
Miss. College, P O Box 4457, Clinton MS 39058
Parents: David & Gloria, Media Promotion
SERVE IN Western South America

11-97

MR. JONATHAN C.G. HARBIN
Rua Carlos Von Koseritz, 1211, Apt. 502, Higienopolis
90540-031 Porto Alegre, RS, BRAZIL
Parents: Christopher & Karen, Theo. Edu. by Ext.
SERVE IN Eastern South America

13-84

MR. PAUL W. HARRISON
Apardo 373, San Pedro Sula, HONDURAS
Parents: Frank & Phoebe, Student Evangelism
SERVE IN Middle America

14-83

MISS EVA N. CARLISLE
27796 Tirante, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-2733
Parents: Jason & Susan, General Evangelism
SERVE IN Eastern South America

15-96

MISS MARISSA J. BLEDSOE
Rua Ponte Nova, 385 Floresta
31.110-150 Belo Horizonte, MG, BRAZIL
Parents: David & Laurie, General Evangelism
SERVE IN Eastern South America

16-89

MR. DAVID N. BUSH
B. P. 15, Kenieba, MALI
Parents: Karl & Lena, Community Outreach
SERVE IN West Africa

16-86

MR. NATHANIEL D. CARLISLE
27796 Tirante, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-2733
Parents: Jason & Susan, General Evangelism
SERVE IN Eastern South America

21-79

MR. WESLEY A. JOHNSON
118 Browning Hall, William Jewel College
500 College Hill, Liberty MO 64068
Parents: David & Robin, University Education
SERVE IN Western Pacific

28-88

MISS LINDSEY J. PURL
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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College music professor James Sclater, of Clinton, has received the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) Award for the 2000-2001 school year, making this the eleventh consecutive year he has won this award. Sclater has been a member of the Mississippi College faculty since 1970. He has written more than 100 works, many of which have been published and performed. He received his education from the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Texas.

Mac Frampton, pianist, will perform at Blue Mountain College (BMC) in Garrett Hall on Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m. His two-hour production, *Concert Grand!* will feature musical milestones spanning two centuries composed for the concert grand piano. For more information, contact BMC at (662) 685-4771. Due to a generous grant this concert is offered free admission.

Fall enrollment at William Carey College (WCC) dropped by 33 students over last year's all-time high. According to Registrar Cathy Van Devender, the fall total is 2,367, compared to 2,400 in 2000. This year's enrollment still is 12% higher than that recorded in the fall of 1999, which included 2,109 stu-

dents. The admission standards at WCC were raised from a minimum ACT score of 15 to 17 for freshmen and a minimum grade point average of 2.0 for students transferring from other institutions.

Randolph Benton Miley, chairman of the art department at Mississippi College (MC), is the recipient of The William Poirier Art Educator Of The Year Award for the State of Mississippi for 2001. This award is presented annually by the Mississippi Art Education Association. Miley, of Jackson, received his education at Hinds Community College, University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi College, and Florida State University. Before going to MC he served as associate professor of art and coordinator of the art education program at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.



The Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union (BSU) ministry council for the 2001-2002 school year (pictured, from left) are Bradley Geno, Tupelo, men's ministry; Scott Nash, Corinth, men's ministry; Kim Massengill, Glen, discipleship chairperson; Kristy Camp, Amory, missions education chairperson; Tracy Moser, Ripley, BSU director; Sharon Enzor, Ripley, faculty sponsor; Lena Plunk, Florence, Ala., missions fundraising chairperson; Sarah Smith, Ripley, social chairperson; Laura Carpenter, Winona, BSU president; Stephanie Tisdale, program and office assistant; Amanda Cowart, Laurel, vice president; Tracy Rice, Lakeland, Tenn., prayer chairperson; Maria Teel, Red Banks, community missions chair; Nicole Morris, Huntsville, Ala., secretary; Rebekah Morris, Huntsville, Ala., worship chairperson; and Heather Cook, Blue Mountain, commuter chair.

REVIVAL DATES

Westwood, Meridian: Sept. 26-30; Wed.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri., noon; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Bill Webb, Meridian, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver and Chris Lee, music; Richard Davis, pastor.

Kokomo (Marion): Sept. 24-27; 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., Archie Herrin, evangelist; Thurs., Billy Murphy, evangelist.

Old Union, Shannon: Sept. 23-26; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Smith, Algoma, evangelist; Jimmy Hendrix, Brewer, music; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

Bethlehem, Pinola: Sept. 30-Oct. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Glenn Allen, Jackson, evangelist; Duane Bradford, pastor.

First, Edinburg: Sept. 23-28; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; covered dish lunch will be served following morning services; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ed Knoxx, Columbus, guest speaker; Billy Henry, pastor.

Moselle Memorial, Moselle: Sept. 30-Oct. 3; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Leland Hogan, Petal, evangelist; music by members of Moselle Memorial Church; Michael Street, pastor.

Osyka (Pike): Sept. 23-26; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Nelson Price, Georgia, evangelist; Ronnie Nielsen, Richland, music; Milton Kliesch, pastor.

Terry's Creek, Magnolia: Sept. 23-26; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., lunch at noon, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Gene Douglas, McComb, evangelist; Tony Prescott, music; Kent Newell, pastor.

Calvary, Braxton: Oct. 7-10; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., lunch, and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Jackson, Pearl, guest speaker; Jeff Wedgeworth, Calvary Church, music; Maurice Bryant, pastor.

Elmo, Jefferson County: Sept. 23-26; Sunday, Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., dinner, and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Stuart Givens, Wesson, guest speaker; James Hunsucker, pastor.

Lynn Ray Road, Petal: Sept. 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dave Strebeck, Purvis, evangelist; Danny Shows, music; Johnny H. Breazeale, pastor.

Grace, Philadelphia: Sept. 30-Oct. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Raymond Leake, Meridian, evangelist; Wayne Bishop, Philadelphia, music; Dennis Duvall, pastor.



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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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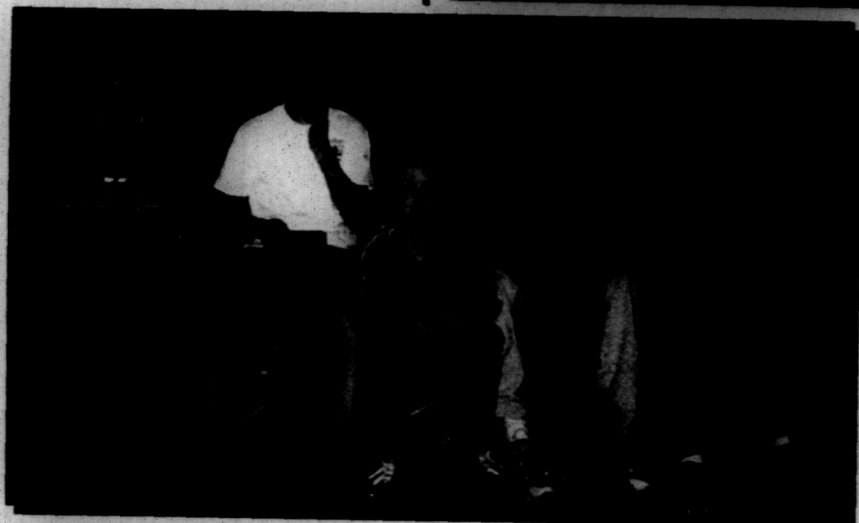
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Young men of First Church, Brooklyn, recently built and sold bluebird houses as a fund raiser for North American Missions.

MLSMO emphasis in gear

September is the month of special emphasis for the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO). For more information on the offering, contact Debbie Sills, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3320 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 320. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org. Visit www.mbcb.org and click on the MLSMO graphic.



Mission Friends from Furr's Church, Pontotoc, made I Care Kits to send Marilyn Hopkins, a missionary in Michigan. The kits are given to migrant workers. Mission Friends (pictured) are Caleb Lambert, Kaylee Lambert, Saydee Moss, Tucker Harris, Trent Priest, and Will Dillard.

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Gospel singing will be held at Barnes Crossing Church, Saltillo, at 6 p.m. on Sept. 30. Featured singers will be Steve Hurt and Calvary Quartet from Tupelo. J. D. Johnson is pastor.

Crossview Church, Rankin Association, will celebrate its 15th anniversary on Sept. 23. Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. with dinner on the grounds following the morning service. The Revelations Quartet will be singing in the afternoon. Don Williams is pastor.

The Evangelical Homiletics Society (EHS), an academic society formed to advance the cause of biblical preaching, will hold its fifth annual meetings on Oct. 18-20, at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). The plenary speaker will be Quentin Schultze, professor of communication arts and sciences at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich. The guest preacher will be Erwin Lutzer, senior pas-

tor of Moody Church in Chicago. The conference's theme is Preaching and Technology. For more information contact Endel Lee, assistant professor of preaching and pastoral ministries at NOBTS's College of Undergraduate Studies at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3365; elee@nobts.edu; or check the EHS web site at www.evangelicalhomiletics.com.



Youth of Leesburg Church, Morton, attended the Go Tell Camp, sponsored by Rick Gage Ministries, that was held at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa, Ga., July 23-27.

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RELATIVES DIDN'T KNOW

Editor:

With so much hurt and disappointment in the world today, why did you find it necessary to embarrass innocent people by printing the names of relatives of a convicted criminal (Russell Kammerling) on the front page of The Baptist Record? If you just had to name names you should have named the seven men who were involved in the alleged fraudulent activities, not relatives who knew nothing about Kammerling's actions.

Nonie D. Odom
Waynesboro

DISTURBING REPORT

Editor:

It was disturbing to read your short report (Former IMB trustee convicted, Aug. 16). After reading it, many unanswered questions came to mind.

According to the report, Russell Kammerling, a former trustee of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board,

was convicted of fraud and interstate transportation of money taken by fraud.

Ironically, Kammerling is a brother-in-law to Paige Patterson and also to Chuck Kelley, the report stated.

Did the close family connection to these influential men have influence on choice of this man as trustee? The report says that there were seven men involved in this fraud. Were the other six engaged in Southern Baptist activities also? Were they sent to prison? How much money was taken? Was there restitution of the money? What was Kammerling's sentence?

I ask these questions knowing full well that they will not be answered. I also know that I am not alone in wanting answers.

This is dirty laundry, but we have a right to know the full story.

I pray this man has a repentant heart and has asked God to forgive him of this dishonest deed.

Haskel Stringer
Bay Springs

THANKS, VOLUNTEERS

Editor:

Central Hills Retreat has just completed a construction project that included two lodges, a multipurpose center, a maintenance building with storage for the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit, and new paved roads.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board provided \$1,750,000 for the project. The total program was completed at a cost of \$1,528,000, a savings of over \$22,000. The reason for all of the savings and being able to construct more building space is directly attributable to the volunteers who worked on the program. Over 400 Baptist men and women contributed between \$500,000-\$700,000 in labor. This quality workmanship from Mississippi Baptists enabled this program to be completed under budget.

It was a joy to watch the various church groups, Campers on Mission, and disaster workers come together and work on this building program. There was a real joy of accomplishment in their sweet spirit as they worked. The quality of work was outstanding. This large group of volunteers asked for no recognition, but their service to Mississippi Baptist work required us to thank them. A plaque has been placed in the William "Bill" Causey Missions and Activity Building to honor these Mississippi Baptist volunteers.

If you have not been to Central Hills, call or go by to see the facilities that are the results of a partnership of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Mississippi Baptist volunteers, companies that did contract work, and companies that donated materials and labor.

Thank God for volunteers that will see a job to its completion.

Larry K. Otis
Tupelo

Editor's note: Otis, who is mayor of Tupelo, served as chair of the feasibility and building committee for the Central Hills project.

HELPING BCV

Editor:

A total of 9,460 ears of corn and 612 gallons of purple hull

peas were processed in Leflore County in 2001, to give to the five Baptist Children's Village (BCV) homes in Mississippi.

Gerald Conway donated the 9,460 ears of corn and 100 gallons of peas from his farm, which is located east of Greenwood, on Roy Pullen's land.

Teddy Simms of Phillipston donated over 200 gallons of purple hull peas and Charles Keenum from Belzoni donated over 140 gallons of peas.

Phillipston Church picked, shelled, blanched, and packaged peas in their church using volunteers from the Phillipston and Sidon communities.

The 9,460 ears of corn and over 300 gallons of peas were picked, shelled, shucked, desilked, blanched, and packaged in Gerald Conway's equipment shed.

The churches that participated in the harvesting of produce were Immanuel, Sidon, Phillipston, Calvary, North Greenwood, and Christ in Leflore County; First and Eastside in Belzoni; First, Winona, and Kilmichael, Kilmichael.

The Jackson and Coldwater/Independence children's homes also sent teenagers and counselors to help with the processing.

Frank Pruitt of Belzoni furnished some chest freezers and insulated shipping containers to transport the corn and peas. They were sent to Jackson for distribution to the five children's homes.

Last year Leflore County shipped 3,800 ears of corn and 100 gallons of peas to the Baptist Children's Village.

This ministry was sponsored by Mississippi Agricultural Fellowship, Agricultural Missions Foundation, Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary.

Our hopes are for other associations to join in this ministry next year.

Thank you all for the hard work, time, and expenses to do this work that glorifies our Lord and Savior and helps our state children's villages to provide a safe home for those who need it.

Dick Stafford
Greenwood



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

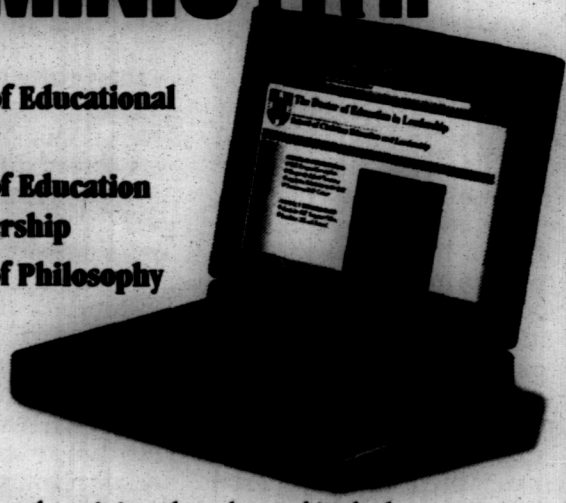
No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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HOMEcomings

Piave Church, Richton: Oct. 28; services at 11 a.m. and lunch to follow; James T. Dunnam, interim pastor.

Diamondhead, Diamondhead: Sept. 30; 10 a.m. followed by covered dish lunch and singing; J. W. Brister, Paul Oglesbee, and Tommy Mitchell, speakers; Fred Womack, pastor.

Belden, Belden: Sept. 30; services, 8:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., and worship,

10:30 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall at 11:30 a.m.; Donald Baggett, pastor.

Calvary, Braxton: Oct. 7; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch; afternoon services; Steve Jackson, McLaurin Heights, Pearl, guest speaker.

Central, Brookhaven: 50th anniversary; Oct. 7; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish lunch and praise service; Mack Amis

Jr., former pastor, guest speaker; Frank Rice, pastor.

Rocky Point, Carthage: Sept. 23; 10:45 a.m.; noon meal; and 1:30 p.m. singing; New Born, Carthage, guest singers; David Wilkerson, guest speaker; Marshall Lum, pastor.

Holcomb, Holcomb: Oct. 21; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Buster Thomas, guest speaker; Randall Ashley, pastor.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Trust and obey

Joshua 6:1-27

By Wayne Marshall

Dwight L. Moody was holding a series of meetings in Massachusetts during the mid 1880s. A young man who had recently been converted stood in a testimony service and spoke about his conversion. He basically stated, I'm going to trust and I'm going to obey.

From that phrase came that familiar hymn of our faith. The refrain states, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey" (Reynolds, Songs of Glory, p. 332).

Joshua and the children of Israel had to follow that same admonition as they faced Jericho, their first obstacle in taking the Promised Land.

Jericho was well fortified

with thick walls and huge gates. Yet God had a plan. The principles of this plan make good, sound advice for people who want to obey God completely today. Four truths stand out from the study.

Their method was precise (vv. 1-5). God often uses a plan different from the norm to get victory. That may be to keep his children from taking any of the glory. He often gives a unique plan to test the obedience of the followers.

That was the case with the children of Israel. God gave them a precise plan of action that would seem baffling even to the most faithful soldier. They were to march, not fight. They were to shout, not fight. They were to blow horns, not fight.

In the midst of the instructions, they would look ridiculous. It was not a very sound plan from man's point of view.

Man must ultimately obey God's instructions if they want to secure godly victory. So they accepted God's plan, admitted God's power, and acted ultimately on God's promise that the city was already theirs even though it still looked guarded, fortified, and completely impregnable. God has a precise method one must choose to follow.

Their march was persistent (vv. 14-16). Joshua repeated the instructions to the people and they set about to fulfill them. Verses five through fourteen tell the reader that the people were completely obedient and completely persistent in their march around the city.

They were told to march daily, shout loudly, blow boldly, and stand back while God gave them the city he had

promised them. The people continued to obey God until they saw the victory secured. Perhaps there is more to be said for persistence than meets the eye. It would certainly seem that way.

Their meaning was plain (vv. 20-21). The children of Israel were given strict orders not to keep any of the spoil of the city of Jericho. It was to be utterly wiped out. Yet chapter seven tells us a different story. Achan took some of the spoil for himself and it cost the children of Israel defeat and loss of life.

Achan's disobedience ultimately cost him his life and the life of his family (7:25). In securing godly victory one must secure the victory God's way. Disobedience is never tolerated with the plan of God.

Their ministry was promising (vv. 24-25). Many days had passed since the two spies had entered the city of Jericho and been hid by the harlot, Rahab. The people of God were told at that time that all of the inhabi-

tants of the land knew who they were and what power God possessed for them.

It is comforting to know as one reads this text that God keeps his promises. God did not change his mind once the victory was secured. Neither did the children of Israel fail in their commitment to minister to Rahab.

Her family was spared and God's people completed the ministry God promised to this brave lady. It is comforting to know that God's promises are not altered by time or experience. The world may see a time frame, but God sees a principle of obedience and commitment that makes ministry possible, powerful, and promising.

Do you need to trust and obey? If God can move walls and remember promises then certainly he can take care of our need today. Remember that's the only way to be happy with Jesus.

Marshall is pastor of Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Concerned friends

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20; 3:1-5

By Dell Scoper

Christian friendships are of priceless value, and have a way of taking on great depth in a brief period of time. Many have experienced such on short-term mission trips. First Thessalonians has been called a "classic epistle of friendship," which is the primary focus of this lesson.

Paul had been maligned by his opponents in Thessalonica, who misrepresented the integrity of his ministry, and insinuated that his failure to return was due to his unconcern for them. The first charge he met in 2:1-16, Paul's defense of his conduct. He then proceeded to answer the second charge, 2:17-20, 3:1-5, a defense of his absence.

Caring words — Paul's desire to visit the church (2:17-20). From the time Paul had to

leave Thessalonica under cover of night for Berea, then flee Berea for Athens (Acts 17:10, 15), he continually sought an opportunity to return to this young church. His opening phrase, "but, brothers," contrasted his love for them with the malice of their persecutors.

Paul then used a strong, vivid word to describe their forced separation — bereft (orphaned or torn away). His mental anguish is revealed in that phrase, along with the phrases, "We made every effort," and "intense longing." His words, "Certainly, I, Paul," made these expressions even more personal, emphasizing his separation from them was not of his choosing.

Though physically apart, Paul is still with them in his

heart. He attributed his absence to Satan, who "stopped us," i.e., blocked the way as in putting up a roadblock calculated to stop an expedition on the march.

How important were the Thessalonians to Paul? In 2:19-20, Paul's rhetorical question and answer tied them into his anticipation of Jesus' return. They will bring him joy and be his glorious victor's wreath (crown) on that day, as well as his glory and joy now.

This is a glory in what God has done through Paul's ministry, not in his personal accomplishments. Like Paul, our greatest crowns in which to glory are those whom we have helped onto the path of faith.

Caring Deeds — The decision to send Timothy (3:1-5). Paul's willingness to send Timothy to Thessalonica, thus leaving him alone in the pagan city of Athens, underscored his concern for this congregation.

We see his sense of desolation, on the one hand, and his deepest desire, on the other

hand, that Timothy would be able to bring these new believers strength and encouragement in the face of persecution.

Why did Paul fear that the persecution these Christians were facing would cause them falter? Since the Thessalonian church was composed of Jews and Gentiles (Acts 17:1-4), we surmise the persecutors were Jews and Gentiles (1 Thess. 2:14b; Acts 17:5-9).

We understand the obvious reasons why the Jews persecuted Christians, i.e., they rejected Jesus as the Messiah and they objected to the inclusion of individuals into the church who were not already obeying the Jewish law and traditions.

The Gentile (Greek) persecution came primarily in the form of social ostracism. Greco-Roman cities flourished with various trade guilds, political and philosophical societies, and religious cults to which the citizenry belonged, one of which was the Roman imperial cult — emperor worship.

This was a way Greek cities could curry good public relations with the Roman govern-

ment. The trade guilds provided jobs and business contracts, and the political and philosophical societies were the established system of social patronage.

Because Christians often saw the need to leave these voluntary organizations, we can see why the pagan Greeks of Thessalonica viewed the appearance of a new religious group, worshiping only one God, as a threat to the social, religious, and economic fabric of their urban life.

Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know why he was absent during a time of persecution. He simply had to have their support. Paul articulated his desire for affirmation from his Christian friends, thereby erasing any possible perception of Paul as a self-sustained leader who did not need a supportive network of Christian friends.

Indeed, we learn from this text that mutual strengthening and encouragement is the basis for all growing Christian friendships.

Scoper is a member of First Church, Laurel.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

AUGUST 1-31, 2001 MEMORIALS

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Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor
Christopher Lehmann
Mr. & Mrs. Grady Huff
Mr. & Mrs. Alan L. Freeman
Mrs. Kathleen M. Huffman
Mr. & Mrs. Ron K. Phillips
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He was with us when we're down
He always tries to keep us up
He cared for us then
He cares for us now
He saves us from the evil
And saves us from our sin
In my heart...
He will always win because
He is the only way, the best life, and always
truthful.

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The Lee Way Family



On September 2, 2001 at a reception to celebrate the life of Forest Hill Church, Jackson, all real and most of the personal property of the church was transferred to The Baptist Children's Village (BCV). After 63 years of serving the Lord, the church did not want its efforts to end with the closing of the facility. Therefore, by this donation the ministries of this great congregation will continue through the service of The Baptist Children's Village. Pictured (from left) are Jim Alford, Director of Northeast Mississippi Family Ministries of the BCV; Robin Nichols, interim pastor, Forest Hill Church; Henry Glaze, BCV Assistant Director-Programs; and Daryl White, member, Forest Hill Church.

Bibliocipher

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JXNIE GC QVX ASERJXA,
NVRV YXAREX QG NIDW
RH DGHU EGJXA, IHY
DGPX UEXXQRHUA RH
QVX FIEWXQA, IHY QVX
VRUVXAQ AXIQA RH
QVX AOHIUGUMXA, IHY
QVX SVRXC EGGFA IQ
CXIAQA.

DMWX QNXHQO:

CGEQO-ARZ

Clue: N = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-One: Thirty-Six.

IMB report pinpoints lostness of world

Final in a two-part series

Closing the Gap, a report prepared by strategists at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB), takes a big-picture snapshot of the secular and spiritual state of the world.

It also examines the "scope and range of God's resources" among his followers — and asks some hard questions about how to bring evangelistic vision and reality closer together.

The report's findings include:

ILLITERACY AND POST-LITERACY

Two-thirds of the world's population is functionally illiterate (including millions of adult Americans). That's more than 4 billion people who wouldn't understand the Bible in their own language if they had it.

Of more than 6,000 world languages, fewer than 1,000 have a New Testament translation. Most of the globe's languages are purely oral, with no written forms.

"With today's technology, many non-literate peoples are moving straight to visual and oral means of learning and communication without ever learning to read and write their own heart language.

FISHING FOR FOOD — A Lozi woman, her baby on her hip, uses a basket to catch small fish in a marsh. Western Zambia's Lozi people group live in remote villages along the Zambezi River. The way God is at work among the Lozi is just one story on Africa: Behind the Wall, a free new video available from the International Mission Board. (Photo by Warren F. Johnson)

Meanwhile, the centripetal waves of global integration in communication, economics, and politics are washing over barriers to evangelism in many once-closed places, for mission agencies and for individual churches and Christians who increasingly seek to design their own customized mission strategies.

POPULATION GROWTH

The world's 6.1 billion people likely will increase to nearly 9 billion by 2050, with nearly 95% of the growth projected to come in the developing world.

Nearly a third of the world's current population is under age 15. More than 3.5 billion people live in Asia — greater than the rest of the globe combined — and 60% of expected population growth will come there.

Yet it's the region farthest away from the Christian centers of the West.

The population of the Middle East and North Africa will double; sub-Saharan Africa's population will triple. The aging populations of Western Europe, Japan, and the former Soviet bloc will decline.

FOOD AND WATER

Malnutrition kills 17,000 people a day, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia. Nearly half the global population lives in "water-stressed" nations where wars may be fought in years to come over access to limited water.

MISSION PERSONNEL CHANGES

If trends hold, the IMB's long-term missionary force,

now at about 5,000, will climb above 8,000 by 2010.

Career missionaries account for 66% of the total missionary force and this year the agency will appoint more career missionaries than ever before.

Rapid growth in the numbers of two- and three-year workers, however, means shorter-term personnel could account for two-thirds of the total force by decade's end.

"Are we prepared for this development? Many of the International Mission Board's programs of personnel selection, support, training and supervision were shaped with long-term missionaries in mind.

"Are we adapting these programs to match a changing personnel force? Is this a desirable future?" the report asks.

The report identifies eight key bridges crossing the

world's Gospel "gap," and seven major barriers. The bridges include:

- ◆ increased prayer among Christians for the world's lost.

- ◆ the growing phenomenon of rapid church planting movements.

- ◆ emergence of large numbers of non-Western missionaries.

- ◆ more partnership among Baptists and evangelicals worldwide.

- ◆ expanding global communications.

- ◆ increasing use of creative strategies to reach unreached peoples

- ◆ mobilization of Southern Baptists and other Christians in local churches to join God on mission "as never before."

The barriers listed in the report include:

- ◆ lack of prayer.

- ◆ unbalanced deployment of mission resources.

- ◆ runaway global urbanization.

- ◆ lack of communication among mission agencies, partners, and churches.

- ◆ the non-growth of long-term missionary numbers; the sheer volume of unreached people groups

- ◆ the stubborn persistence of a "vast sector of the world's population that has never heard the good news of Jesus Christ."

The barriers are issues that should shape the prayer lives of all Southern Baptists as well as provide study topics for missions strategists, said Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president for overseas operations.

The bridges provide strategies missions leaders can use as they focus on closing the gap and obeying Jesus' command to preach the Good News everywhere.



FAITH MARCH — Jewish Messianic believers march through Jerusalem with banners proclaiming their faith in Yeshua (Jesus). They participated in the annual Jerusalem March, which attracts Jews from all over the world during the Feast of Tabernacles. (Photo by Don Rutledge)

"How might the Internet, compact disks, and video disks allow us to communicate the gospel to non-literate and post-literate peoples?" the report asks.

PULLED APART, PULLED TOGETHER

The centrifugal wave of ethnic conflict is tearing whole nations apart. Yet renewed ethnic identity and awareness worldwide has focused modern missions on identifying and reaching all of the world's ethnolinguistic people groups, which are often "hidden" within larger countries or majority peoples.



REACHING OUT — Jim Butner (left), an ophthalmologist from Vinita, Okla., worked with missionaries Bob and Becky Coutts to conduct eight eye clinics for Weme people in rural Benin villages. Through the eye clinics and seven dental clinics, Butner and dentist Ken Williams of Goodlettsville, Tenn., treated more than 650 patients and helped lead 250 Weme people to Christ. (Photo courtesy of Jim Butner)

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At the top of the page: Lt. Col. Ellen McArthur of Red Bank, N.J., displays an American flag that she pulled from the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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Miss. Baptists lauded for response effort

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. (Special) — "Once again, Mississippi has come through for us and I really appreciate it."

Those were the words of Mickey Caison, national coordinator for Southern Baptist disaster relief at the North American Mission Board, spoken Sept. 24 as six Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force members departed terrorist-ravaged New York City for the long drive home.

The volunteers had just wrapped up a tour of duty as chaplains and counselors near Ground Zero — the foreboding name given by rescue workers to the million-ton pile of rubble that rests where the World Trade Towers once rose majestically above the Manhattan skyline.

Walking 15-20 miles each day in search of people who needed a listening ear or a shoulder on which to cry, the team members found plenty of both.

Task Force member Jerry Sanford, pastor of First Church, Sardis, said the Mississippi Baptists walked all over Manhattan each day, from 77th Street southward.

He said team members mostly spent time listening and "giving people the opportunity to talk about what happened to them."

Task Force member Kay Cassibry, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union and a member of First

Church, Clinton, remembers the well-dressed woman on the subway who began to eye the Mississippi Baptist identification badge hanging from her shirt. Just before the woman got off the subway car, she began crying and squeezed Cassibry's arm without saying a word as she walked away.

"That's the kind of reception we got all along. In a time of tragedy, people are looking for something and it doesn't have to be a four-page sermon," said Cassibry.

Retired military chaplain Paul Cassibry, a Task Force member, Kay's uncle, and also a member of First Church, Clinton, counseled people at the headquarters of the American Red Cross and at the Family Compassion Center on Pier 94.

He said the experience reminded him of his military tour of duty during the war in Vietnam, where he served as chaplain for 24 months.

"You had people who had all kinds of losses (in New York City). They lost their homes, or were fortunate enough to walk out of a building but a week later had no job to go back to.



ON THE SCENE — Jerry Sanford (left), pastor of First Church, Sardis, and Bob Reccord (right), president of the North American Mission Board in Atlanta, talk with New York Police Department officer Kevin J. Walsh, who was visiting the Tennessee Baptist disaster relief feeding site in New York City. (BP photo by Jim Burton)

"School children were displaced; university students had no place to go," he said.

Task Force member William Wright, pastor of McDowell Road Church in Jackson, said he believes God was "very much a presence in all of this."

He said the Task Force members were there because they were concerned and to show the support of the people of Mississippi in time of need.

"I think that's the spirit all over America," Wright observed.

"We were really fortunate to work with God, as he brought hope to the people of New York City. We were tremendously inspired by their courage and their gratitude," said Task Force member John Vess, a member of Crossgates Church, Brandon. "It was awesome."

Jim Didlake, Men's Ministry Department director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and disaster relief coordinator for Mississippi Baptists, was called to Washington D.C. along with Sanford in the hours after the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

Their assignment from Caison: to coordinate the massive Southern Baptist and state Baptist conventions' response

to the attack. Once the Washington operation was organized, Caison reassigned the pair to New York City to work with the other four Task Force members.

Didlake said he couldn't have asked for a better crew.

"This was a new area of ministry among Southern Baptists without guidelines or plans," said Didlake, "and they functioned in whatever conditions they were placed — better than anyone could ever expect."

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers continue to be the major supplier of hot meals to the American Red Cross for distribution to search and rescue workers and others in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Volunteer chaplains and pastoral counselors continue to work alongside other disaster relief units and in a variety of other locations.

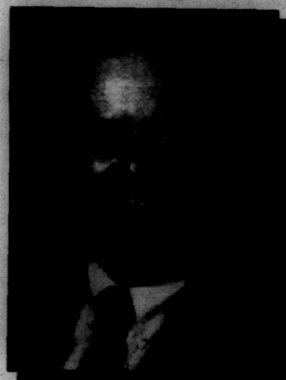
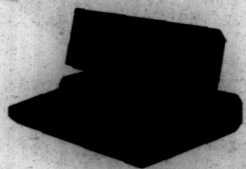
As of Sept. 24, 164,019 meals had been prepared by a number of state Baptist convention mass feeding units set up around New York City and Washington, D.C.

Tim Nicholas and Baptist Press contributed to this report.



GATHERING FOR PRAYER — Lloyd Roberts (right), interim president of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, addresses students and faculty Sept. 17 at a standing-room-only chapel service after the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. (Photo courtesy of Mississippi College)

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Drying the tears, drawing the sword

It seems like a lifetime, but it was only three weeks ago that the top news story captivating America concerned a whore-mongering Congressman from California. That was then. This is now.

Now is the aftermath of the terrorist destruction in New York City and Washington, D.C. Now is the 24-hour, ever-fading search for survivors in the 17-block demolition area known as Ground Zero, where the glimmering World Trade Towers once reached for the sky and stretched our imaginations just as far.

Now come the 6,800 funerals. Now come the many more thousands of children without fathers or mothers or both. Now come the husbands and wives who must complete their life journeys without their soul mates.

Now come the tears. Tears of loss for loved ones. Tears for people we don't even know who have been changed forever before our very eyes. Tears for loss of innocence. Tears for fear of what will happen next. Tears for feeling lost and helpless in the maw of pure evil.

There will soon arrive a time for drying America's tears, however, and what comes after will likely determine the direction of our beloved country — and the world — for the remaining 99 years of this century and beyond.

Our national leaders have promised overwhelming retaliation and called us to a war against terrorism that may well last through the end of this decade or longer. We have been warned that there will be many casualties.

The first bellicose movements are underway. National polls show 92% or more of respondents demanding a military response to the worst terrorist loss of life in this country's history.

Radio talk show callers and letters to the editor of local newspapers seem to back up the polls. Just about everyone wants something done, and swiftly.

Now is the time to talk about the concept of a "just war." We know war is not God's

best for us or our enemies, but what is just war from a Christian perspective and are we going into one? Those are questions that deserve to be answered.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, has developed an argument based on what he says are "the criteria for justifiable armed conflict as applied traditionally by the church."

According to Land, those criteria are:

- ◆ It must have just cause. War is permissible only when it is done to resist aggression and to defend victims.

- ◆ It must have just intent. All other opportunities for resolution should have been rejected or have failed.

- ◆ It must have legitimate authority. In this case, approval by Congress is necessary.

- ◆ It must have limited, or achievable, goals. Annihilation of an enemy or total destruction of a civilization is not acceptable as a goal.

- ◆ It must be proportional in its objectives. The good gained should justify the cost in lives and injuries.

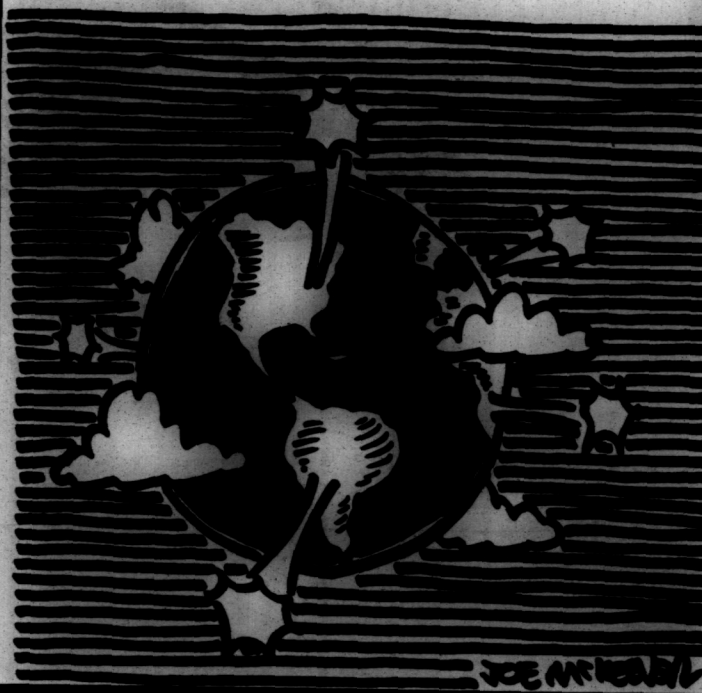
- ◆ It must have noncombatant immunity. War should not be targeted at civilians and should seek to minimize inadvertent civilian casualties.

Land believes all the criteria have been met. "This is a defensive war," he told Baptist Press on Sept. 21. "We've been attacked, and our citizens have been slaughtered, and they will continue to die in the hundreds if not thousands unless we attack those terrorists..."

While Land does not speak officially for Baptist groups other than his own (that's part of our polity — a subject for another editorial day), he does put forth a persuasive case for this conflict being a just war.

**"IF OTHER PLANETS ARE INHABITED,
THEY'RE USING THE EARTH FOR
THEIR INSANE ASYLUM."**

— G. B. SHAW



There will be those who disagree, and that's all right. The Baptist tent, and the American tent, should be big enough to accommodate debate on a subject as important as a just war.

With the benefit of 20/20 hindsight we can see that as the dark curtain of Nazism closed around Europe beginning in 1939, it became clear that World War II had to be fought and won.

Now it's our generation's turn to make that fateful decision. With Jesus Christ as our Master and the Bible for our guide, the place to make that decision is on our knees in prayer before Almighty God.

Time is growing short. We'd best get started.

GUEST OPINION:

Redemptive response to tragedy

By David Michel, Assoc. Executive Dir.
for Missions Extension
Miss. Baptist Convention Board

Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, we deployed two crisis counselors to the Pentagon within three days of the attack.

Jim Didlake, director of the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Jerry Sanford, pastor of First Church, Sardis, became heroes for Christ and for us.

Within a week of the tragedy, a half dozen of our volunteers were in New York. Your generosity through state missions and Cooperative Program gifts allows us to have ministry teams which are trained and ready to respond at a moments notice.

Because of our partnership with the Baptist Convention of New York through Impact

Northeast, we mailed a check for New York Baptists to use in immediate relief for their families and to enhance their witness efforts during the recovery.

If your church has not completed its state mission offering yet, you may want to increase your goal.

Although gratitude is the immediate response we feel in the face of all these events, perhaps we should also use this as an opportunity to repent. Could we have coasted along too complacently in our state mission efforts?

Last year we celebrated breaking through the one million dollar mark for the state mission offering for the first time in history. I wrote with pride of this achieve-

ment in the promotional materials for this year's offering.

Today, I want to repent. One million dollars is not enough. The 2001 goal of one and a half million dollars is not enough.

If our nation can spend \$40 billion on retaliation, shouldn't we give more for redemption? If Christ gave his life for the world, does he expect any less of us?

I invite you to prayer and discussion related to an appropriate Baptist state missions response. I envision the need for a three million dollar offering in the coming years.

That's only ten percent of what we give annually through the Cooperative Program, and many churches raise as much as twenty percent of their income in an annual harvest offering. Will you join me in this repentance?

Write or e-mail me about what ministries should be featured in upcoming offerings, and how you would like to see your congregation challenged in missions participation in the future.

My address is P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3233 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 233. E-mail: dmichel@mbcb.org.

Missionaries: God working through crisis

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Though the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Sept. 11 shocked and stunned Southern Baptist missionaries all over the world, they report that God is at work in hearts all around them because of the crisis.

They also ask Southern Baptists to pray that God would use the calamity to awaken Christians to the urgent need to take the good news of God's love to all the world's peoples.

"Just like you, I'm shocked, appalled and saddened by the events that took place

yesterday morning at the World Trade Center and Pentagon," wrote Philip Johnson, a Southern Baptist missionary in Managua, Nicaragua, on Sept. 12. "Words cannot express my feelings adequately."

"As this drama unfolded before us [on television], we felt drawn to pray for our nation, its leaders, our churches, and missionaries around the world. We knelt on the floor and poured out our hearts to the Lord."

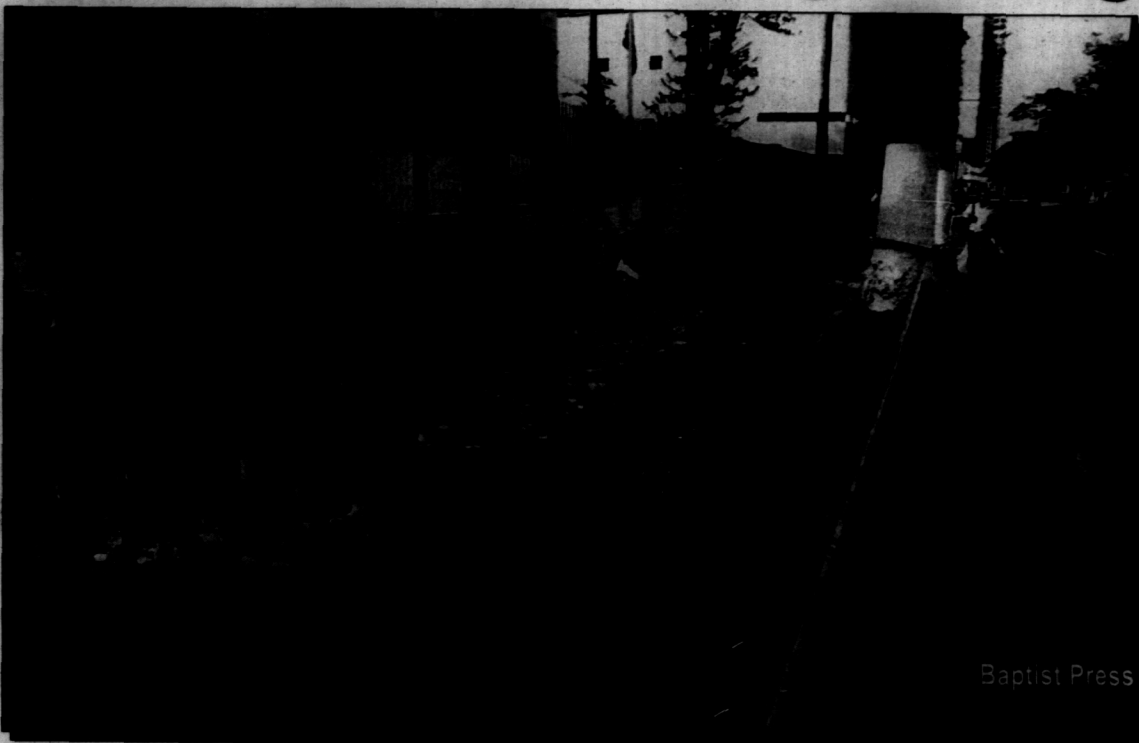
Other missionaries found it hard to absorb the reality of what was happening.

"As for me, it doesn't seem real. I can sit here and watch CNN all I want, but the video that comes through the set seems like a movie that I've seen before," wrote Chris Turner, a missionary in Panama.

"With the non-stop coverage, it is like a movie that never ends. Being so far away, it is difficult to grasp the magnitude of the lives lost, the destruction, the anger," he said.

A missionary in The Last Frontier added: "We get tidbits on the Web but no real voices, no tears, no pain, no anger..."

"I feel ashamed to be so dis-



PANAMANIAN EXPRESS SYMPATHY — Pedestrians pass the U.S. Embassy in Panama City, Panama, on September 18. Officials have heightened security around the Embassy following the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. The public may approach the building only to place flowers or candles at the gates. (BP by James L. Yates)

connected from country, victims, and heroes. I have mourned, shed tears, and prayed."

Southern Baptist workers were deeply moved, however, by what one missionary called "the incredible outpouring of grief, concern, and solidarity toward Americans."

"Across the street [from the U.S. embassy] were people who had gathered to lay flowers around the young trees in the sidewalk," wrote Monte and Janet Erwin, missionaries in Riga, Latvia. "Many were kneeling and lighting candles."

"I was drawn to one young man (about college age) who was kneeling and holding a candle, with tears running down his face. I told him I was an American and I was moved by his compassion and the compassion of so many who had laid flowers and candles, and I thanked him."

"He immediately broke apart and embraced me, laying his head on my shoulder and weeping. I couldn't help but shed tears myself."

"As I entered the consulate's section of the embassy, the guard handed me the telephone. It was a Latvian voice on the other end who said he had watched from an upstairs window and thanked me for the moment he had just seen out on the street."

"I knew immediately that Latvians and Russians stood with us in our grief," wrote the Erwins.

One missionary was struck by the intensity with which believers in Lima, Peru, prayed for America.

"About eight hours after the attacks on New York City and Washington, the National Prayer Movement of Lima, composed of evangelical leaders and church members from many denominations, gathered in Lima, as they do every Tuesday for a time of concerted prayer," wrote Randal Whittall.

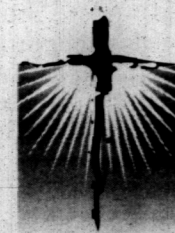
"In light of the day's events, the organizers invited me to bring a brief message as a representative of all American missionaries in Peru."

"I read from Psalm 103, seeking to remind us all that the

measure of our faith was not how well we honored God in the calm, but if, like David, we could stand in the face of adversity and still cry out, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul.'

"What followed was a time of intense intercessory prayer on the part of hundreds of Peruvian Christians. They lifted their voices to God on behalf of the United States and her leadership, for those families affected by the tragedy, and begged God to bring repentance and life-changing salvation to those responsible for such acts of violence."

"It was a truly moving experience to stand in the presence of those for whom American Christians have prayed for many years, and now to hear the favor returned in our hour of need," Whittall wrote.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
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Churches prepare

MINOT, N.D. (BP) — With nearly 90% of the population made up of military personnel, North Hill Church in Minot said the military high alert status has had a "significant impact on our church families." Located about 100 miles from the World Trade Center, North Hill Church has about 100 members, many of whom are military personnel relocated from other areas. "We are forming support groups for the members left behind," Mark Howard, executive pastor of Crossover Church in Spokane, Wash., said the church is "very active." "It's been an interesting time here," Howard said. "We have had some good ministry going on. It has been difficult." Crossover will expand its support of families of those left behind, Howard said. "There is a lot of affecting the whole and I think that contact is the most important thing we can do," he said. "I know that military families tend to feel isolated," Howard said, "so we make sure our church family reaches out with contacts, phone calls, and we want to let them know we care." Howard said Crossover said his church is a place where people can come for comfort and friendship. "It is a refuge for our military families," he said.

Looking back

10 years ago

Using the prayer ministry of a Florida church as a model, Southern Baptist Convention president Morris Chapman calls for churches affiliated with the convention to enlist in a national prayer ministry for 1992.

20 years ago

A minor fire in an asphalt heating unit on the roof of the operations building of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville is extinguished promptly by the Nashville fire department, with no damage or injuries.

50 years ago

Four Mississippi Baptist churches offer teenagers an "after-game frolic" to combat "sock hops" and similar entertainments, growing in popularity, that are held following high school football games.

Ag Missions group to meet October 29

The annual meeting of the Agricultural Missions Fellowship is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. on October 29 at First Church, Jackson, in conjunction with the 2001 Lay Missions Conference.

Retired missionary Larry J. Johnson will be the featured speaker. Johnson and his wife Joy served as agricultural evangelists in the Cajamarca area of Peru for 15 years, and they are currently involved in the construction of a water well in that area for the Mississippi Agricultural Missions Fellowship. A report on all fellowship projects and election of officers is also slated to take place at the meeting.

For more information, contact the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.



Johnson

Tornado spins new volunteers into action

CLEVELAND, Miss. (Special) — The tornadoes that swept through north Mississippi this past spring did a tremendous amount of damage. Many Mississippi Baptists volunteered in the cleanup and recovery efforts in places like Pontotoc, Tupelo, and Columbus.

One of those groups was comprised of men from Mid Delta Association (Bolivar and Sunflower counties). When the request was made from Jackson regarding the need for volunteers in the cleanup efforts, a call came from then-association missions director Dan West who in turn contacted some of the pastors and leaders in the association.

Rick Milan, a member of Calvary Chapel, Parchman, has been very active in missions and ministry both in Mississippi and Mexico. He contacted one pastor who was reluctant at first to recruit volunteers.

"We have several men in our church who are very excited about missions but no one to my knowledge had ever participated in a disaster relief ministry," said John Thomas, pastor of Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland.

Thomas then contacted several of the men in his church and within two days notice had recruited about eight men to travel to Columbus.

"I was very surprised at the response," said Thomas, who went with the men to Columbus.

The team, made up of men from Calvary Chapel and Morrison Chapel, spent the night



CLEARING STORM DAMAGE — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force take a break to adjust their chain saws during work to clear tornado-damaged timber in Columbus earlier this year, after a tornado swept through the city and caused extensive damage. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

at First Church, Columbus, and spent the next day cutting limbs off houses and removing dangerous debris left by the tornado.

What was significant about the trip was not what the teams did but what transpired as a result of the trip.

One team member, Nealy Robinson of Morrison Chapel, stated it this way: "These men left Cleveland only knowing so much about each other but returned as friends."

Ministry had brought them together. Several weeks later another team went to Pontotoc to assist with the cleanup efforts there. In the meantime, God was dealing

with Robinson in a profound way. "My son Fish asked me about going with him on a mission trip to Montana. The cost was \$500. I prayed and thought about it and realized that \$500 could be spent in helping someone here."

Robinson began to pray about how to minister to someone in the community.

Meanwhile, Juniper Grove Missionary Baptist Church near Benoit was experiencing some difficulties of its own. The same night the Mid Delta team returned from Columbus, a tornado came through southwest Bolivar County and completely destroyed the church.

Nothing was left but a chair. Robinson got word about Juniper Grove's need and contacted pastor Joshua Sanders.

Since then, money and manpower have been secured and the new building is almost complete. Nearly every Saturday, members of Morrison Chapel

and Juniper Grove are working together on the building project.

The plumbing, electrical, and much of the construction has been donated.

Robinson has since formed Morrison Chapel's own disaster relief team, called DDT for Delta Disaster Team. The group is planning on buying and equipping a toll trailer to be used for future projects.

The attitude of the volunteers can be summed up in Robinson's words: "If just one person gets saved because of the efforts of this ministry, it has already been worth it!"

Students gather, pray around Mississippi flagpoles

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Tens of thousands of junior high, high school, and college students gathered around flagpoles on their campuses to pray for their schools, communities, and country, just as they have

the flagpole at McComb High School. Other schools in the area reported similar numbers.

"We had a rally at First Church, Summit, Tuesday evening before the pole event," said Christy Anderson, youth minister at First Church, McComb. "Jonathan Dupree, a Christian illusionist from Houston, led the rally. We were able to have him share in the schools in conjunction with the rally, and the response was excellent. In the schools he shared on making good choices and believing in yourself, and that really contributed to the success of the rally."

Between 400-500 students participated in the rally.

Benton Turnage, a student at Parklane Academy in McComb, said, "All the youth are ready to listen," according to Anderson. While some critics of See You at the Pole had said the event had become routine, the recent terrorist events galvanized many students. Laura Tipton, a student at Valley High School in Louisville, Ky., told the Louisville Courier-Journal that "during this time of horrible tragedy, it's like this is the only thing I can do. I really believe in the power of prayer."

When asked about the significance of See You at the Pole, Anderson responded, "It's a reminder each year of the importance of prayer."

See You at the Pole was anything but routine at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, according to Tom McLaughlin, Baptist Student Union director. More than 600 students participated.

"We've typically had our See You at the Pole event around lunchtime," said McLaughlin, "but we wanted to do more of a campus-wide service for memorial purposes."

"We did a full service with music and a time for prayer," he said. "We had the Ambassadors, our campus singing group, perform during the event. We worked with the other campus

religious groups, the Wesley Foundation, and the Christian Student Center, to make this event the best it's ever been."

McLaughlin said they went to the school administration to share their plans. "Administration was totally cooperative," McLaughlin said. "Not only did they let us make this a campus-wide event, they allowed faculty and staff to dismiss classes early so that students could participate. Even students from the local police academy took part."

Baptist Press contributed to this report.



FLAG STILL FLIES — While a small group stays late to pray after the larger group has dispersed, two students at McComb High School raise the United States flag over the campus. (Photo by Tony Martin)



TIME TO PRAY — Students at McComb High School gather early before classes to pray for their school and their nation. More than three million students in the United States and around the world were expected to participate in the annual event. (Photo by Tony Martin)

for the last several years. This year, however, the prayers had an extra element of earnestness and urgency.

According to See You at the Pole organizers, turnout was much larger than usual. More than three million students from all 50 states and 20 countries were expected to participate in the annual event, with "Desperate for God" as this year's theme.

In McComb, approximately 100 students gathered around

Fate of women held in Afghanistan unclear

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (BP) — Despite increasing world tensions threatening Afghanistan, the mother of an American woman on trial there for alleged proselytizing said the ordeal has strengthened her faith in God.

"It hasn't weakened it," said Nancy Cassell, whose daughter, Dayna Curry, was arrested Aug. 3. "I've got to have faith more than I've ever had, and I've got to believe they're going to be okay. God's the one who's got to get them out now."

Curry, 29, and Heather Mercer, 24, both graduates of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, are among eight foreign workers with Shelter Now charged by Taliban authorities in Afghanistan with trying to convert people to Christianity.

Sixteen Afghan citizens affiliated with the German-based Christian aid organization also were arrested Aug. 3.

At their first court hearing Sept. 8, the defendants were granted the right to an attorney but he is having trouble getting into the country, Cassell told Baptist Press in an interview from Islamabad, Pakistan.

The Washington Post reported Sept. 18 the proceedings had been delayed because the attorney had been unable to obtain a visa.

It was subsequently granted but the air space over Afghanistan has been closed, further delaying his entry, Cassell said.

Afghanistan remains in turmoil over a potential showdown with the U.S. over harboring alleged terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden.

Reuters News Service reported Sept. 20 that a million Afghans face starvation if the United Nations' World Food Program cannot resume normal operations there.

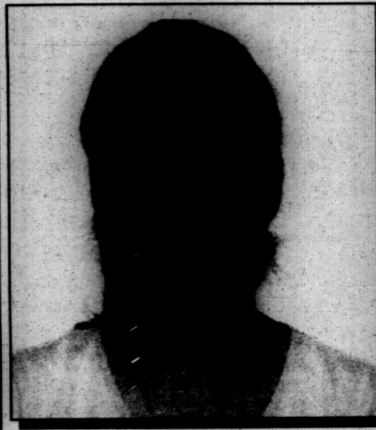
Cassell and the parents of Heather Mercer were among those who evacuated

Sept. 12, the day after terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

Because no outsiders are left in Afghanistan, Cassell said their only knowledge of conditions there is what they see in news media reports. They also have had no contact with the two women.



Curry



Mercer

The American parents flew to Pakistan Aug. 20, where they spent a week before obtaining visas to Afghanistan. Cassell said they had visited their daughters on five occasions prior to leaving.

"When I saw [Dayna], she was doing quite well," said Cassell, interviewed by cell phone on Sept. 20. "I can only trust that she's been maintaining the same kind of spirit. She's very strong in her faith, so I believe she's doing all right."

Contrary to earlier reports, the eight are not being held at a jail. While they are being detained, Cassell described the detention center as similar to a school building. All are in the same room and have received good treatment from their captors, she said.

"The ministry of foreign affairs and the ones we've been dealing with have been really quite nice and helpful," Cassell said.

"They assured us that our daughters are well taken care of; hospitality is one of the big features of Afghan culture."

Still, those guarding the Shelter Now workers aren't in the upper echelons of the Taliban hierarchy. She said any requests they made during their visits had to be referred to a higher authority.

Despite previous threats of severe punishment, a newly released dictate refers to a penalty of three to 10 days in jail and expulsion from the country.

Cassell said that pronouncement offers little relief since her daughter has already been confined for seven weeks.

"Evidently they're not going to follow that or they would have been expelled by now," Cassell said. "[The Taliban] is saying that [order] doesn't apply. They haven't stuck to it, so it doesn't matter."

Cassell, whose husband is overseeing the rental property she manages in a suburb of Nashville, said she is prepared to wait as long as it takes for her daughter's release.

In addition to Cassell, Mercer's father, John Mercer; mother, Deborah Oddy; and Oddy's husband, Del, are in Pakistan.

Danny Mulkey of Antioch Community Church in Waco, Texas, flew to Pakistan Sept. 5 to offer aid and comfort and to be present when the two women are freed.

Curry and Mercer were active at the church before going to Afghanistan.

"If it were my kids in prison, I would definitely want people there supporting them, even if it was 300 miles away," said Mulkey, who has two children attending Baylor.

"I would want someone from church leadership to be as close as possible. I don't know if [Dayna and Heather] know I'm here or not, but when and if they find out I'm here, I think it will encourage them."

North Pole pastor mauled by grizzly

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (BP) — Longtime Alaska pastor Johnny McCoy is recovering at a Fairbanks hospital after being mauled by a grizzly bear Sept. 4. McCoy, 52, pastor of First Church, North Pole, underwent more than six hours of surgery Sept. 4 for multiple injuries he sustained after he and a hunting partner, church deacon Cary Corle, happened upon a female grizzly bear protective of her two cubs.

McCoy's injuries from numerous bites to his head, both arms and hands included a nearly severed right ear, a left eye dislodged from its socket, a rip to his forehead open enough to show his skull, two compound fractures of his right arm, and a broken left wrist.

McCoy has ministered nearly 30 years at the North Pole church, serving as pastor since 1982. He is a trustee of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and delivered the annual sermon at this year's Alaska Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The church has asked that calls about McCoy's recovery be placed to the church office, at (907) 488-2240, instead of the Fairbanks hospital.

TREASURED LETTERS

Only a few days had passed and we were forced to do a job that no one welcomed. My mother had passed away and the few earthly possessions that she had now must be sorted out to either be kept by a family member or given away.

This unwanted task was loaded with tears, smiles, and occasional laughs, all of which were uncontrollable.

In the midst of all the stuff that had been a part of life, there was a small cache of letters and cards. Some of them were from friends, most of them were from family, and one was a card and a note that I had written to my mother and dad when I was in basic training in the army.

It was over 40 years old and in all of the comings and goings, movings, packings and unpackings, and changes in life, my mother had held on to that note along with a few others.

She had never told me that she kept that note or told me how much it meant to her, but it was apparent that it was a treasure far beyond most of the presents and gifts that had been given throughout her lifetime.

A letter can make a world of difference! My mother had never said anything to me about it, but she never threw it away either.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Through the years I have gotten letters that have been so meaningful to me that I, too, have kept them as treasures. I still have and treasure the handwritten letter that I received from the folks at Whittentown Church asking if I would consider coming to be their pastor.

Although it is the smallest church I ever pastored, in many ways it was the most significant church I ever pastored. They took a chance on me, my calling, and my abilities, and invited me to do what I did not even know I could do.

I still treasure their letter of invitation and I still treasure them as a great congregation.

When I think about the power of letters, I need only to reach over and pick up my Bible and I begin to see the significance of a letter sent almost two thousand years ago — a letter of encouragement and instruction, a letter filled with hope and faith, that was sent to

Timothy, or Titus, or to a congregation at Philippi.

It's because of the importance and the power of letters that I want to ask you to consider writing a letter. Over the past several days, while America has been absorbed in the pain of our national loss, a number of people have asked me, "What can we do?"

If all of us went charging up to New York City we would just have to find somewhere to stay and stand on the periphery of the site of need because too many volunteers are already there.

Many across Mississippi have already given money to help in the work, and many, maybe all of us, have been faithful to pray. Let me suggest to each one of us a very practical thing that can be done that can make a difference: Write a letter!

Here are two names in the Corruption Prevention Division in New York to which you can address your letter. Also, I am listing the first names of some

of the undercover police men and women who work in that Corruption Prevention Division so that you can personalize a letter to each one:

Captain Kevin Walsh
or Inspector Diana Pizzuti
New York City Police Department
Corruption Prevention Division
315 Hudson Street
New York, NY 10013

David, Diana, Kevin, Eugene, Felix, Dave, Toni, Ann Marie, Charles, John, Bill, Bob, Glen, Calvin, Kitty, Susan, Michael, Patrick, James, Linda, Trevena, Yalken, Brian, Hillary, Dorian, Tracey, Gwendolyn, Joan, Jimmy, Joseph, Dominic, Suzanne, Nelson, Jeanne, Hector, Cynthia, Timothy, Scott, Ina, Carmen, Christine, Frank, and Raymond

This group of men and women lost 11 of their fellow comrades from their station and 59 from their division. Ever since the terrorists struck, they have been working hard to find and reclaim their fallen comrades.

Many of them are exhausted physically, mentally, and emotionally, and they have not received some of the outpouring of care from across the nation.

Sit down and write one or two letters. Make it personal and prayerful, and from the depth of your heart — sincere. God will use the letter and he will use you.



Christmas in August at Calvary Church, Pascagoula

Life Chain event set for Oct. 7

Life Chain, an observance of public prayer against abortion, will be held across Mississippi and the U.S. on October 7. During Life Chain events, Christians line the main streets of their home cities and hold signs that proclaim their opposition to legalized abortion. Life Chain events in Jackson (along County Line Road) and Clinton (along Highway 80) are scheduled for one hour beginning at 2 p.m. on October 7. For more information, contact Pat Cartrette of Right to Life of Jackson at (601) 956-8638. Web site: www.rtlj.org.

Calvary Church, Pascagoula, recently celebrated Christmas in August. Leaders and kids are pictured displaying some of the many crafts the children made throughout the year for the Hispanic Ministries, Miami Association. The church family collected items to be used to help lower the cost of the camp, which will

bring more children and be able to offer more scholarships. The items will also be used for ministry to migrant children.

The Myers Family will be in concert at Unity Church, Georgetown, Sept. 30 at 5 p.m. There will also be a covered dish supper. For additional information, call (601) 894-1484 or 845-2054.

Victory Bible Conference will be held at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, Sept. 30-Oct. 2. The times are Sunday, 9:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Mon. and Tues., at 6:30 p.m. Bendon Ginn is senior pastor. For additional information, call (601) 833-2597.

Monument Drive, Tupelo, recently held an RA recognition service. Pictured (from left) are Scott Tackett, brotherhood director; Coley Bryant; Christopher Whittle; Stefan Russell; Corey Springer; and Freddy Russell, director.



RA's of Monument Drive Church, Tupelo

Williamsburg Church, Collins, will have a gospel sing on Sept. 30 at 6 p.m., followed by a fellowship. Labreeska Bose from Waynesboro will be the guest singer. Dennis Campbell is pastor.

Calvary Church, Durant, will host The Bible Echoes in concert on Sept. 30 at 6 p.m.

Grace Church, Philadelphia, recently held a GA recognition service. Robin Keels, GA/

Acteen consultant, Woman's Missionary Union, Jackson, was the guest speaker. Pictured (from left) are Mary Kathryn Asbill, Jesse Files, Amanda Williamson, Emily Tillman, Christina Hamilton, Robin Keels, Brittany Holley, Andria Hamilton, Brittany Hodges, Katie Bradley, and not pictured, Candace Killens. GA leaders are Martha Duvall, Christy Battle, and Jamie Holley. Dennis Duvall is pastor.



GAs of Grace Church, Philadelphia

REVIVAL DATES

Hickory (Newton): Oct. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Randall Creel, Hazel, evangelist; Mark Caruth, Nashville, Tenn., music; Rodney Anderson, pastor.

North Calvary, Philadelphia: Sept. 30-Oct. 3: Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Smith, evangelist; Karen Cumberland, music; Lawrence Runnels, interim pastor.

First Church, Winona: Oct. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Thad Moore, Meridian, evangelist; Wayne Baggett, Decatur, Ala., music; John L. Walker, pastor.

New Sardis, Mount Olive: Oct. 7-10; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., dinner, and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Goff, evangelist; James Garner, pastor.

The Church Organ Group presents

CONNECTING YESTERDAY'S CONTEMPORARY TO TODAY'S CONTEMPORARY

an organ workshop by
Carolyn Hamlin

Saturday, October 6 at
First Baptist Church ♦ Florence, MS

Carolyn Hamlin is a resident of Easley, South Carolina and currently serves as a music associate and organist at First Church, Easley. She is a composer of both organ and choral works. A selection of her arrangements, performed by recording artist Tom Hazleton, has recently been released by the Hal Leonard Corporation.

SCHEDULE
Registration 8:30 a.m.
Workshop begins 9:00 a.m.
Lunch (provided) 12:30 p.m.
Round-table discussion 1:30 p.m.
Adjourn 3:00 p.m.

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, October 3. For more information or to make reservations, contact Patsy Simpson by calling (601) 956-9047 or toll free (800) 783-3056; e-mailing patsys@netdoor.com; or by visiting our website at www.churchorgan.com.



Summer 2001 staff members for Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko included (back row, from left) Chris Cauthen; Justin Saffle; Will Sharp; Matthew Johnson; Josh Simpson; Jimmy Bryant; Carlton Brady; Terry Dale Cruse; Robert Connerley; Casey Williams; James Stewart; Ryan Parker; Shannon Daughtry; (third row, from left) Mark Stanton; Bryan Lindsey; Breck Richardson; Lance Martin; Adam Newsome; Tim Parker; Mark Purvis; John Ferrell; Brad Ingram; Ryan Moore; Chad Logan; Kyle Edwards; (second row, from left) Tollie Pinkard, assistant camp secretary; Peggy Wasson-Tyler, camp secretary; Melba and Euel Nelson, Pete and Russell Reeves, Linda Hughes, Francis and Hoyt Curbow, volunteers; LaVerne Wade and Doreatha Love, food service workers; (front row, from left) Zack Nail; Lee Stevens; James Ray; Jim Ray, camp manager; Jacob Pryor, and Hu Alan Riddell. (BR special photo)

Bivo minister appreciation set Oct. 14

October 14 has been set aside as a special day to celebrate the ministries of Mississippi Baptist bivocational pastors. Local church leaders are encouraged to show appreciation for their bivocational pastors on that Sunday. For information and ideas on how to conduct an appreciation service, contact Matt Buckles, director of church administration-pastoral ministries at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3308 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 308. E-mail: mbuckles@mbcb.org.

2001 Gulfshore Assembly Staff

Summer 2001 staff members for Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian included (back row, from left) Josh Eaton; Lance Baggett; Nicky Tutor; Dylan Peeples; Jay Thomason; Louis Zinc; Joel Gray; Jeff Hoskinson; Kelly and Rani Wheat, house parents; Curt Skipper; (third row, from left) Frank Simmons, camp manager; LaDonna Ferguson; Erica Tullos; Hannah Gibson; Jarrod Dearman; Jonathan Gagnon; Paul Chrestman; Jason Courtney; Ian McAnally; Jeff Pates; Jeff Feinberg; Mary Gaskin; (second row, from left) Carmen Bianca; Ashley Landers; Amy Thornton; Sally Saulter; Sarah Spencer; Rachel Maxey; Nathan Trosper; Justin Means; Lacy Mosley; Andrew Strehlow; Duncan Tucker; Kayla Parker; (front row, from left) Paige Purvis; Terri Mayo; SarahLee Newman; Rebekah Carter; Christy Cedotal; Kara Joy Christy; Brooke James; Sheri Pape; Jennifer Owens; Candice Youngblood; and Amy Adams. Staff members not pictured included Emily Wallace; Matt Fondren; Andi Jennings; Shellie Young; Cory Dewett; Brandi Bean; Marcus Burge; Julie Roberts; and Wesley Anderson. "The staff arrive at the beginning of summer as strangers, but through ministry and service they depart as a Christian family and lifelong friends," said Camp Manager Frank Simmons. (BR special photo)

Summer 2001 staff members for Camp Garaywa in Clinton included (back row, from left) Candy Mitchell; Pam Thomas; Freddi Speed; Amanda Abel; Lindsey Spencer; Allison Cox; Katy Jones; Lauren Moose; Jenny Newman; (fourth row, from left) Caroline Barefoot; Jeanna Aultman; Amanda Rae Bowers; Robin Keels, camp director; Sarah Crowson; Candice Holland; Kelly Clardy; Melissa Edwards; Danielle Smith; (third row, from left) Christy Ivy; Charity Gardner; Stephanie Grey; Regina Young; Kim Bullock; Gwen Culpepper; Mandy Thomas; Erin VanHorn; Siobhan Pietruszewski; (second row, from left) Lauren Wells; Brandi Sisk; Christen Smith; Chrissy Stevenson; Beth Atkins; Amanda

Robbins; Ondrea Davis; Meridith Vance; (front row, from left) Vickie Jones; Haven Hale; Amanda Marsh; Suzanne Smitherman; and Sarah Beth Graham. (BR special photo)

2001 Camp Garaywa Staff

New Hope Baptist Church Foxworth, MS

HOMEcoming

October 7 at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Dr. Jim Futral, evangelist ♦ Gary Hodges, music

REVIVAL

Oct. 8-10 at 7 pm.

Bryan Upshaw, evangelist ♦ David Grimsley, music

Call (601) 736-6511 for more information.

Weathersby, Mendenhall: Oct. 7; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; Foy Killingsworth, pastor.

Friendship, Aberdeen: Sept. 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch, 12:30 p.m.; Daniel Jones, Mobile, Ala., former pastor, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music.

Pecan Grove, Ellisville: Sept. 30; service, 10 a.m.; Charles Ray Dampeer, former pastor, guest speaker.

First, Chicora: Oct. 7; luncheon to follow morning service; Lavon Crane, Chicora, guest speaker; revival services to follow; David Roberson, pastor.

Holly Springs, Foxworth: Oct. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. with former pastor Charles Williams; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing.

Ethel (Attala): Oct. 14; services, 10 a.m.; covered dish meal in fellowship hall at noon; special offering to replace sanctuary roof will be received; Chester Carlisle, pastor, speaker.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Children of Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula, participated in a reading program this summer. They read 2,151 books. Pictured are the children that became all-star readers with 50 or more books. Older readers are: Chris Speights, April Dykes, Peyton Tolar, Reid Delancey, Brett Merrill, Callie Merrill, Jessica Gregory, Brooke Clifton, Lauren Reed, Andy Smith, Nolan Mann, Dustin Speights, Dana Speights, Kaity Wolverton, Nicole Mann, Chase Donald, Colton Donald, and Montana Bates; Younger readers are: Zachariah Clemens, Tori Miller, Stephen Miller, David Gonzalez, Katy Gregory, Noelle Mann, Adam Smith, and Brandilyn Bates; Other participants are: Matt Clifton, Jacob Jones, Heather Poole, Hooly Bingham, Bayley Hendry, Emilee Turner, Sierra Jeter, Meagen Baker, Jessica Baker, Christyn Bosarge, Abby Snow, and Sarah Reed.

James T. Dunnam has retired, after serving 44 years as a pastor in Florida, and is now living in State Line, Greene County. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Dunnam is presently serving as interim pastor of Piave Church, Richton.

Jerry Martin was recently ordained as a deacon at Grace Church, Philadelphia. Martin is pictured with his wife Lynn and Dennis Duvall, pastor.

Malcolm R. "Mack" Massey will celebrate his 50th year in the ministry, Sunday, Oct. 28, 2-4 p.m., at First Church, Brookhaven. He is a native of Covich County. Churches Massey served as pastor in Mississippi include Zion Hill, Covich County; First, Lake Washington, Glen Allan; Southway, Brookhaven; West Jackson, Jackson; and Holly Bluff, Holly Bluff. Since retiring and moving to Brookhaven in 1996, Massey has done extensive supply and interim work in several churches. For additional information, write Jon Daniels, P. O. Box 190, Monticello, MS 39654.



The Cunninghams and Pouncey

Mt. Vernon Church, Newton, ordained **Jerry Cunningham** as deacon on Aug. 26. Pictured (from left) are **Leisa Cunningham, Jerry Cunningham,** and **Steve Pouncey,** pastor.

Rebecca Williams of First Church, Gautier, was the guest speaker at the 39ers luncheon at Calvary Church, Pascagoula. Williams gave a report of her recent mission trip to Ukraine.



Williams

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Area Partnership and Development and William Carey College (WCC) will present the annual Small Business Award at the Leadership Award Luncheon on Oct. 10 at WCC. The award was established in 1990 in honor of the late Joe Roberts (one of the founders of Aycock-Roberts

Furniture). Roberts was a WCC faculty member for several years up to the time of his death. **Jim Carmeron,** General Manager, WDAM-TV, will be the keynote speaker. For more information or ticket reservations call (601) 582-6199.

Blue Mountain College announces three new teachers joining the faculty for the 2001-2002 school year. Pictured (from left) are **Myra Langley,** New Albany, education department; **Teresa Arrington,** Oxford, modern foreign language department; and **Lynn Howell,** Ripley, business department.



Langley, Arrington, and Howell

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

HARRISVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING a full-time minister of youth. Housing and benefits available. HBC is located in Simpson County approximately 30 miles south of Jackson. We have a very active youth group. Applicants should send a resume to Harrisville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 308, Harrisville, MS 39082. ATTN: Wayne Harris.

FBC IN BROOKLYN is searching for a part-time music director. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 340, Brooklyn, MS 39425. For more information, please contact Ricky Courtney at (601) 583-0954.

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SEEKING - SEMI-RETIRED OR RETIRED PERSON to serve as part-time Minister of Music. Music degree and choral direction experience required. Send resume or request for more information to: Search Committee, Barcelona Road Baptist Church, 390 Barcelona Road, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

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FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH - First Baptist Church, Crossett, Arkansas, is seeking resumes for this full-time position. Must have heart for reaching and ministering to students for Christ. Send resume to Attn: Angie Wilson, Youth Search Committee, 701 Main Street, Crossett, AR 71635.

GULFSHORES BEACHSIDE CONDO. Fantastic Fall special - 4 weeknights for \$160; 2-night weekend for \$120. Call Martha at (205) 554-1524 or Don at (251) 968-3222.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH IN Baltimore/Washington D.C. metropolitan area is seeking a dynamic individual to join our ministry team. The candidate should have a seminary degree with a strong background in music and a desire to work with young people. A letter of interest and a resume (including names, phone numbers, and addresses of at least three references) should be sent to: Search Committee, Glen Burnie Baptist Church, 7524 Old Stage Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21061.

FOR SALE! 30 (gold) choir robes. Monument Drive Church, Tupelo, Miss. (662) 842-3943.

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GAINED A FRIEND

Editor:

In July Tommy Gillon announced he was leaving Mt. Zion Church, New Hope, for new territory and new music ministry — trusting and obeying God's will. Although we all cried and feared losing him we respect his decision. He'll be a blessing and joy to others that need him. He is one of the finest leaders and ministers; he encourages, gives, witnesses, and builds our faith as a choir to believe we can achieve not just as a choir but as a church

and community. Through tears and laughter we gained a friend and family to love in our hearts forever.

Barbara Peterson
Pickensville, Ala.

WORKERS NEEDED

Editor:

Two weeks ago we watched in horror at the explosions of airplanes, the collapsing of buildings, and the hijacking of America's heart.

How are we as Mississippi Baptists to respond? Our minds

are numbed, our emotions fragile, and our bodies dazed by the senseless act of aggression that broke America's heart. We, however, hold the most productive tool of good that can help America. We know Good News. Jesus loves America and each of its citizens. He died long ago so that all of us, including those whose physical lives are taken by evil men, can live eternally.

If there is anything good to come out of this tragedy maybe it is this: America is ripe for revival. Our President is boldly proclaiming, "Justice will be done..." We need to be bold in proclaiming what Jesus has already done for us on the cross.

The harvest time has come for America — not just the debris-covered streets of New York are white, but the fields of souls is "white until harvest." Will you labor for the master? Giving blood, monetary donations, and physical aid is good, but how do those gifts compare with the opportunity to offer eternal life to the hurting?

Rescue workers are needed. Will you sift through the rubble and aid a survivor by taking him/her to the Great Physician? Mississippi Baptists can help America in her greatest hour of need, one soul at a time.

Deborah Blair
Clinton

WHAT IS MISSIONS?

Editor:

What is missions? It is helping those in need all over the world, your own country, state, county, or right in your own neighborhood. Society Hill Church, Oak Vale, has been on a mission trip in their own neighborhood. What a joy! You should have been here and seen the faces of those on this trip. They were all aglow and excited. Happiness everywhere, laughing, smiling, and tears of joy, not because someone was in need in our neighborhood but because we found them and could help them. We helped with material things but the best thing we did was help them spiritually.

You don't have to leave your neighborhood to do missions. Every neighborhood has someone in need. They may only need a visit with a few kind

words, help with some small chore they can not do for themselves, or a bite to eat, a drink of water, maybe they need a question answered about the Bible, or just someone to read to them. It doesn't have to be a big need, just a little affection.

This is what missions is all about. So check out your neighborhood and see what God has for you. I know you will find someone to minister to and feel the happiness and joy we felt in Society Hill.

Virginia Broom
Oak Vale

UNITED WE STAND

Editor:

United we stand, divided we fall! We've allowed a few people to divide our country and God. What happened? With no God or prayer allowed in schools, the devil and his demons entered in and there has been school violence like never before.

With God separated from government and state our whole country has been attacked by Satan and his followers. Our forefathers came to the United States to have freedom to worship (one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all).

Our president has made public he is a child of God. The U.S. won't stand or can't stand unless we as children of God join together. "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Let's not let a few people take God and his blessings away from us. We don't know when our lives will end because all those people that went to work on September 11 were expecting to come home to their families. Instead, they were meeting God face to face.

Which will it be? As for me and my house we will serve the Lord our God for 'united we stand,' and we know that divided we fall. I love you, Lord!

Sharmain Hutto
Buckatunna



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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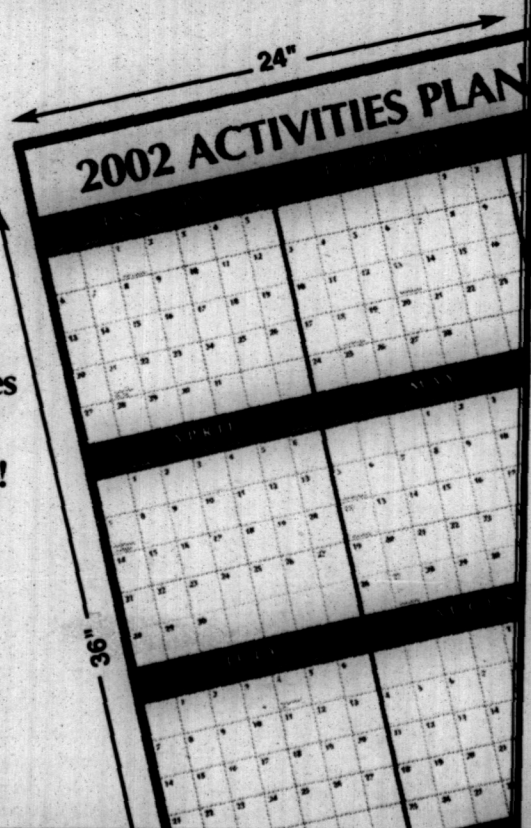
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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The challenge of a choice

Joshua 23 and 24

By Wayne Marshall

Have you ever heard of the word "oxymoron?" It is two words hooked together that are opposite of one another. For example: "jumbo shrimp," "numb feeling," "working vacation," and "unbiased opinion."

Another less familiar phrase might be "the Christian's choice." Could it be that part of our problem in spiritual growth and development is that we want too many choices?

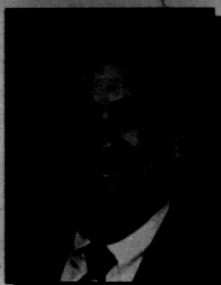
Joshua addresses the children of Israel in today's lesson with a supreme choice. His desire for them was that as a nation they would commit all of their ways to the Lord.

He also wanted every home

and every individual to know of his personal commitment. As this study unfolds may we see the challenge of our choice and choose to serve and obey the Lord.

Chapter 23 and 24 of Joshua deal with two separate events. Joshua's speech of chapter 23 reflects his personal farewell address while chapter 24 becomes a call to covenant relationship between Israel and Jehovah.

Chapter 23 speaks of God's continued blessings for a proper choice of Jehovah. Chapter 24 includes instruction from past events as well as instructions for the obedient. Four very strong statements emerge from the speeches.



Marshall

A deliberate decision (24:15). Leadership is vital to every group and God had provided the best for Israel. Joshua had entered Canaan as an untried "rookie" leader. But he had entered with God's power upon his life. He now comes with that same power to say "choose."

It is an understatement to suggest that Joshua put pressure on the people through that powerfully worded command. Their choice was not only under the pressure of God's Spirit, but it was to be personally done. "You" choose who "you" serve. Not one Israelite (or American) could miss those packed words and the pressure they brought upon life to be godly and holy to the Lord.

One other word stands out in the challenge of Joshua. He said to choose "today." The call was a present call. There could be no mistaking, misunderstanding, or mishandling of that phrase. It was time to

back up their position as God's people with the practice of God's presence daily in their lives.

A triumphant truth (24:16-24). In these few short verses Joshua reminds them of two great truths about God. First, he has blessed you as a people. God had driven out the enemy and deserved their best service and sacrifice. To this the Israelites agreed.

Second he declares that God is holy and jealous. These two attributes alone reflect the seriousness of obedience. God will have no other gods in the life of his people (family?, finances?, football?). To follow other gods will mean that God will become an "enemy," (vs. 20) and fight against you. These short phrases show the seriousness of this covenant.

A final promise of commitment issues from the mouths of the Israelites. Verse 24 resounds with a triumphant sound of an obedient desire. It would remain to be seen what they really would do.

A consuming covenant (24:25-27). The day has long since past in our businesses where a handshake and a word would seal an agreement. Even in this series of events Joshua writes it all down.

The proclamation of obedience became a covenant. It would be necessary to "write it down" (verse 26), so that it would be remembered. They were to proclaim it as truth, pen it for the sake of posterity, praise God for his goodness, and picture it for the future.

The stones of the Jordan where they entered Canaan served to remind them of God's blessing to them. Now the stones at Shechem would constantly proclaim their commitment to God.

Abraham Lincoln once said that if you were to perform life a champion, then you must practice like a champion. The Israelites made that solemn commitment. Have we?

Marshall is pastor of Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Inspirational Christians

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

By Dell Scoper

Many acts of heroism followed the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. The American people were inspired to forget our diversities and were, in a matter of moments, cemented into a real United States of America.

From the firemen, law enforcement, and disaster relief workers to the news media, national leaders, and intelligence officials — all have inspired us to move forward as one nation under God.

Inspirational Christians is the final lesson of Unit I, Portraying the Faith. Think of those individuals whose example has inspired you in your Christian walk.

What are you willing to do that will lift the level of your present faith and love to make

you an inspiration to another believer?

Inspirational example — Timothy's report (v. 6). "But" introduced the recent arrival of Timothy in Corinth with good news. His report probably provided Paul the chief motivation for writing this letter almost immediately ("just now") after hearing the report. Timothy "gospelized" (the only instance this verb is used in the New Testament) Paul as to the conditions in Thessalonica.

Verse six reads as if the sun had suddenly come out on a gloomy day, when Paul joyfully took note of three aspects of the report: the Thessalonians' faith in the midst of persecution, their selfless love, and their feelings about him, assuring Paul that he had not been written off as an exploiter.

Inspirational impact — Paul's response (vv. 7-10). Of



Scoper

such inspiration from his fellow Christians there was great need. Paul had reached Corinth alone, without friends or funds, surrounded by pagan corruption.

Against him had been launched the most vicious attacks by the Jews ("distress and persecution" translated as "choking and crushing trouble"), a situation which had almost broken his spirit (Acts 18:5-6, 12-13).

"For now we really live" indicates that Paul had moved from a state of almost paralyzing discouragement to renewed activity. He had been given a new lease on life because the Thessalonians were unmoved by affliction and unshaken by distracters.

I find powerful insight in 3:8. In a simple but profound manner Paul was saying, "I need you, you need me."

He had already expressed thanksgiving twice for the Thessalonians (1:2, 2:13). He did so now for the third time (3:9-10) by asking a rhetorical question reminiscent of Psalm 116:12, literally, what thanksgiv-

ing can Paul give back to God because of these Christians?

He prayed constantly and earnestly making two requests: (1) that the apostles might return to Thessalonica, and (2) in order to supply what was lacking in their faith, a reference to their Christian growth, not their salvation.

Paul saw a return visit as an opportunity to further equip their faith, improve its quality, bringing their faith to full potential.

Inspirational prayer — Paul's prayer (vv. 11-13). How does the content of Paul's prayers for his Christian friends compare to yours? A most significant way of inspiring others is to pray for them and let them know it.

The apostle addressed three requests to God. First, he wanted God to make a straight and open path for a return visit to Thessalonica. So far as biblical records indicate, this petition was answered about five years later when Paul visited Macedonia twice toward the end of his third missionary journey.

Next, he wanted God to cause the Thessalonians' love to

overflow beyond their church to include even their persecutors.

Third, Paul asked God to establish their hearts in complete devotion to him, so that they might be blameless and holy when Jesus returned.

I believe with Soren Kierkegaard that the most inspirational evidence of God's power is not his creation of the cosmos out of nothing, but the fact that he "created saints out of sinners." Holiness, therefore, is not an attainment but an act of grace by whereby God sets us apart for himself, so that we can stand blameless before him because Jesus stands with us.

One definition of the word "portray" is "to represent dramatically as on a stage." Although I do not think the portrayal of our faith should be perceived as a performance, I am convinced that we must realize that by our lifestyle we should represent Christ "dramatically, as on a stage," before the world audience.

In so doing we shall indeed be responding to a high and holy calling, portraying the faith.

Scoper is a member of First Church, Laurel.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing. No articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message body of the e-mail form. Due to increasing costs,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where, and how of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be submitted as a file, or (b) three-inch printouts, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 300, Jackson, MS 39205-0570. Phone: (601) 944-3330. E-mail: baptistrec@baptist.org

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JIMMY PORTER,

THE YANCEY,

REX WOOD,

Just a little love goes a long, long way

AMOS 6:1-7

6:1 Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

6:2 Pass unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?

6:3 You that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near;

6:4 That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall;

6:5 That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of music, like David;

6:6 That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

6:7 Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed.

The citizens of the United States of America enjoy a prosperity that is unequalled in the world. Most have food, clothing, shelter, education, and the basic necessities of life.

However, even in America, many are hungry. In other parts of the world, famine has taken its toll killing millions including the small children we see as we flip rapidly through the channels of our television set.

While it is easier to do nothing, it is unethical. We can't save all the hungry children in the world, but we can help save some.

I heard a story once about a man who was walking along the beach tossing starfish he found back into the sea.

The starfish were dying by the thousands as the sun cooked them on the sand. An onlooker walked up to the man and declared, "You can't possibly save all of them. You are hardly making a difference at all."

The man replied, "I made a difference to that one," as he tossed it back into the water.

Hunger strikes not only in third-world countries, or in big inner cities, but also here in our state. Solutions lie in many strategies.

First, the initial problem must be dealt with. We must give them something to eat. Not those that won't work, but those who can't.

Secondly, you have heard that if you give a boy a fish, you feed him for a day, but if you teach him to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. Mississippians must have a chance at the best educational opportunities that can be afforded them. Poverty doesn't have to be a way of life.

Mississippi is a state of contradictions in many ways. I love Mississippi and my family has been firmly planted here for over seven generations. That said, as a state we have to do better.

According to National Public Radio, Mississippi leads the nation in overweight and obese people. We are more indulgent when it comes to food than any state in the union.

Yet according to the Clarion Ledger, Mississippi has the third highest poverty rate at 18%; third lowest median household income at \$31,955; highest percentage of citizens receiving government assistance at 25%; 25% of related children living in poverty — ranking 4th nationally; 37% of homes with a single-parent female are impoverished; teen pregnancy rate of 72.5 births per 1,000 teens 15-19; and 26% of those over 25 lack a high school diploma.

Source: Clarion Ledger, Page 1A, 8-6-01 Mississippi Poverty Statistics Among Highest in U.S.



WHAT A DIFFERENCE ONE PERSON CAN MAKE

It is easy for us to feel that we as individuals can have little impact on a global problem like hunger. However, every man, woman, and child in the church has the power to save a life and touch a life to save a life.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

12¢ will provide a meal for a homeless child in the U.S.

\$40 will feed a victim of war in Kosovo for one year.

\$1.79 will provide milk for a hungry child in the U.S.

\$1.05 will provide a meal for a hungry child in the U.S.

Source: Life Light, Published by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund

Mississippi ranks as one of the worst ten states for children: NC, SC, TN, GA, AZ, AL, AR, NM, LA, and MS. All but two are in the South.

Source: Clarion Ledger, Page 8A, 5-23-01 New Figures Reveal Regional Need

How can we be so fat and so lean at the same time? Amos 6:1-7 addresses Israel's problem with this same question. They never dealt with their problem and consequently were the first to be taken into exile.

What is to be the fate of Mississippi? Will those with enough simply ignore those who are needy or will the "haves" find a way to be generous and to solve the age-old problem of whether to have a conscience or not?

If we will personalize the situation and see our own children on the TV screen starving to death, hunger will become a priority. Or we can pray, "Bless me and my four, and no more."

♦ In 1999, there were 27 million Americans, including 11 million children, that were hungry or at least food insecure (Associated Press, September 8, 2000, Philip Brasher, USDA Economic Research Service).

♦ Requests for Southern Baptist domestic hunger funds were up over 80% in 2000 while receipts only rose by 10%. Many requests went unfilled (Donoso Escobar, NAMB).

♦ In 1999, Southern Baptists gave an average of 65¢ per person for world hunger.

If every Southern Baptist gave \$1 per month, hunger gifts would multiply by 18 fold.

Nearly 40% of those seeking food aid in the United States in 1997 were members of families where at least one person in the household was working (U.S. Conference of Mayors).

I encourage you to give through your church to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. It is supplied solely by church members' donations from across the country.

This fund provides food for people in distant countries as well as right in our own backyard. In 2000, Southern Baptists provided more than 3 million meals in the United States through the World Hunger Fund and reported more than 13,600 profession of faith directly related to hunger ministry.

During the same year, the World Hunger Fund was used to touch more than 20 million lives in more than 50 countries. In the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, for example, more than 100 new churches in Honduras were started as a result of hunger ministries.

The Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund has an unusual record for efficiency in its use of gifts for the hungry. Because Southern Baptist Convention missionaries and volunteers are already in place, the World Hunger Fund is the only hunger ministry known to utilize 100% of all contributions for hunger, with nothing taken out for administration or promotion.

God is using the faithfulness of Christians through regular giving to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund to touch the world with His good news.

If you are interested in receiving Christian

Action updates

via the internet, and will share

this information with friends and

our church, please e-mail us at

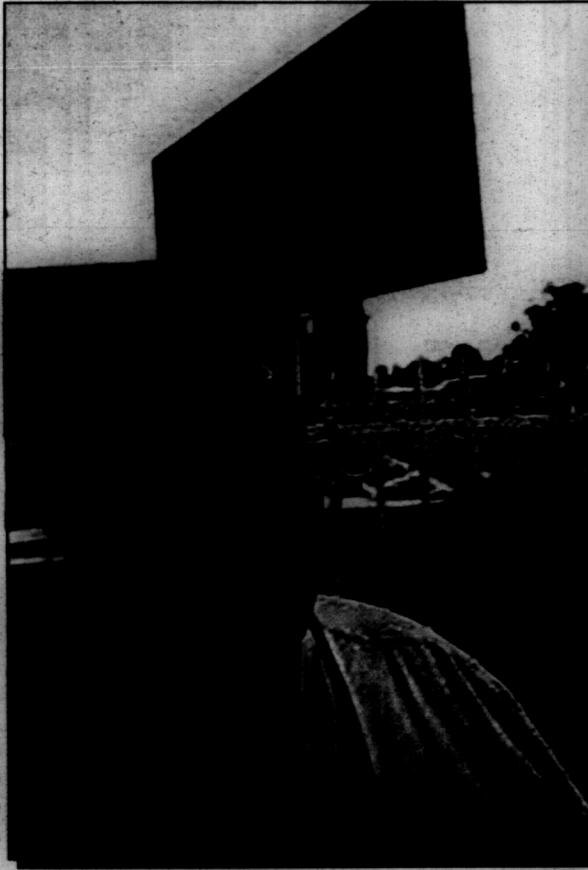
wood@mbf.org

include your name, address,

phone number, and church name

Christian Arabs fearful of revenge attacks

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Christians need to show Christ's love to Arab-Americans currently numbers 58 congregations of Middle Eastern descent, said Russell Begaye, manager of the North American Mission Board's multiethnic church multiplication group.



Begaye encouraged Southern Baptists, in the days ahead, to be more intentional about developing relationships with their Middle Eastern neighbors.

"When Middle Easterners become followers of Christ, they are ostracized from their family members and homeland," Begaye said. "We have many Arabs in this nation who were driven from their homeland because of religious persecution."

Meanwhile, police and authorities, Hanna said, have become increasingly suspicious of Arabs who gather in groups.

"Any Arab gathering is under the eye of the American people," he said. Islamic and Arab-American leaders have warned the United States' nearly seven million citizens of the Muslim faith and three million of Arab descent to main-

tain a low profile in public. President George W. Bush, in an address Sept. 20 to a joint session of Congress, assured Muslims across the country and throughout the world of America's respect for their religion.

"The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends," Bush said. "It is not our many Arab friends."

"Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them."

"We're in a fight for our principles, and our first responsibility is to live by them."

"No one should be singled out for unfair treatment or unkind words because of their ethnic background or religious faith."

Nevertheless, some Americans have already unleashed their rage on those who resemble the ethnicity of the terrorists, often mistaking other nationalities and groups for radical Arab Muslims.

A gas station operator from India was shot dead in Phoenix, along with a Pakistani Muslim grocer shot to death in Dallas and an Egyptian-born grocer, who was a Christian, killed at his San Gabriel, Calif., market.

The three incidents are among at least 40 cases under investigation following the terrorist attacks.

Mosques and Arab-owned business throughout the country have reported vandalism, including gunshots and firebombs. In a Cleveland suburb, a car crashed into the entrance of a mosque.

"We as Southern Baptists need to come alongside our Arab brothers at this time because we are beginning to see a turning to the Lord Jesus by Muslims," Begaye said.

"I believe we are going to see a great movement of God among the Middle Eastern people as we've never seen before," he stressed.

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

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MR XLI PMTW SJ LMQ
XLEX LEXL YRHIVWX-
ERHMRK AMWHSQ MW
JSYRH; FYX E VSH MW
JSV XLI FEGO SJ LMQ
XLEX MW ZSMH SJ
YRHIVWXERHMRK.

TVSZIVFW XIR: XLMVXIIR

Clue: Z = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty: Forty-Six.

WORKING WITH ARABS — Egyptian-born Khalil "Charlie" Hanna, with the North American Mission Board, has served for the past 21 years in California helping start churches throughout the state for immigrants from the Middle East. California is home to more than 1 million Middle Easterners.

In the Los Angeles area, where Hanna lives, more than 15,000 Muslims practice Islam.

"I think this is the time Christian Arabs and Southern Baptists alike can extend their loving hand to Muslim Arabs," Hanna said.

He said many Muslims are questioning the authenticity of their Islamic faith that advocates initiating "Holy War" on those who don't recognize Allah.

Now, more than ever, Hanna said, the Christian Arab community needs Southern Baptists' love, prayers, and support.

"We need to supply the Christian Arab churches basic evangelism materials such as New Testaments and gospel tracts," he said.

He also called for Southern Baptist churches to offer their buildings as safe havens to house Christian Arab congregations meeting in homes or other locations that might be vulnerable to retaliatory acts by Americans incensed over the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 against New York City and Washington, D.C.

Many Christian Arab families in California are locking themselves in their homes, afraid to be seen in public, Hanna said.

"Some of the churches may not have weekend or middle of the week worship services," he said.

The Southern Baptist Convention